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THURSDAY, June 11, 2026

The Courier Leader

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Two Van Buren County Sheriff's deputies each receive Distinguished Service Awards

PAW PAW - Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott has announced that Deputy Eric Calhoun and Deputy Randy Whitmore were both awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Michigan Sheriffs' Association on June 7.

Undersheriff Casey Davis spoke at the awards ceremony and shared the extraordinary bravery displayed by both deputies on July 4, 2025, when multiple pipe bombs were thrown at them from close range while they were performing their duties.

Undersheriff Davis also highlighted the extensive investigation, coordination, and tireless efforts during the incident, ultimately leading to the successful apprehension of the suspect responsible.

Sheriff Abbott and Undersheriff Davis "are extremely proud of Deputy Calhoun and Deputy Whitmore for their courage, professionalism, and commitment to protecting the citizens of Van Buren County. They also extend their sincere appreciation to the Michigan Sheriffs' Association for recognizing these deputies and their heroic actions with this prestigious award," the press release stated.

Antwerp Board responds to District Library Board's motion to decline mediation

The following letter, dated May 29, was sent to the Antwerp Township Board in response to Antwerp Township Supervisor Dan Ruzick's request for mediation with the Van Buren District Library Board.

Antwerp Township Board of Trustees:

At its May 19 meeting at the Bangor Branch Library, the (Van Buren District) Library Board took up your request for mediation. The Board voted unanimously to decline the request, including its reasoning within the motion itself, which reads:

Motion to deny Antwerp Twp. Supervisor Dan Ruzick's request for mediation. The Library Board's historical practice is that Branch Library Agreements must be uniform across all of its municipal branches. Mediation would move the library away from this historical practice and undermine the long-term stability of the Library District.

Best,
Dan Hutchins
Executive Director
On behalf of the Van Buren District Library Board Of Trustees

On June 3, Antwerp Township Supervisor Ruzick responded to the Van Buren District Library Board with the following letter. It reads:

Members of the Van Buren County District Library Board,

"I must express my concern that the Board's May 29, 2026, response fails to acknowledge a critical fact that fundamentally changes the circumstances before us. Antwerp Township lawfully provided notice terminating the 1997 Branch Library Agreement, and the Township has made it clear that it no longer intends to operate under that agreement. Whether the Library Board agrees with that decision or not, the reality is that the status quo no longer exists.

"The Board's continued reliance on a "uniform agreement" philosophy ignores the fact that Antwerp Township is now in a position unlike any other branch within the district. The Township owns the building, maintains the building, and has provided formal notice that the prior agreement is no longer acceptable. These facts require a different conversation and a different approach. Simply insisting that every branch be treated identically does not address the legal and practical realities that now exist.

"For more than twenty years, Antwerp Township has provided a home for library services and has invested substantial local resources into the facility. The Township does not seek special treatment; rather, it seeks recognition of the unique responsibilities it has assumed and continues to assume on behalf of library patrons throughout the district. A refusal to acknowledge these facts only prolongs the dispute and delays the development of a sustainable long-term solution.

"If Antwerp Township ultimately places a millage request before its voters, the proposal would be restricted exclusively to the capital maintenance, repair, and preservation of the library building. Such a request would represent a significant commitment by Antwerp taxpayers to continue supporting library services and protecting a community asset that serves patrons throughout the District. However, the willingness of Township residents to consider additional taxation should not relieve the Van Buren District Library of its responsibility to participate meaningfully in the costs associated with maintaining one of its largest branch library facilities.

"A favorable vote by Antwerp Township residents would demonstrate their continued commitment to preserving and maintaining this beautiful facility for future generations. It would also reflect the community's desire to ensure that library services remain available in a safe, functional, and well-maintained building. Conversely, if such a proposal were rejected by the voters, it would send a strong message that Antwerp taxpayers believe they have carried this burden long enough and that the Van Buren District Library must begin assuming a fair share of the costs associated with operating and maintaining the Antwerp Sunshine Library facility.

"Regardless of the outcome, the underlying issue remains unchanged: the long-term preservation of this facility cannot rest solely upon Antwerp Township general fund. A sustainable solution requires a genuine partnership in which both Antwerp Township and the Van Buren District Library share responsibility for maintaining a facility that benefits residents throughout the entire District.

"Accordingly, Antwerp Township requests that the Van Buren District Library provide the same $25,000 contribution that has been offered and sent to other participating municipalities. We believe it is both reasonable and equitable that Antwerp Township receive the same consideration and financial support being extended elsewhere within the District. This contribution would recognize the Township's decades-long commitment to housing and maintaining library services and would help establish a foundation for productive discussions moving forward.

"In addition, Antwerp Township requests that the Library Board provide a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the future use of the Antwerp Sunshine Library facility. At a minimum, the Memorandum should establish an annual facility contribution from the Library District toward the maintenance, repair, and preservation of the building, as well as reimbursement of 65% percent of the electrical, natural gas, water, and sewer costs associated with library operations. These provisions would create a fair framework that recognizes the shared responsibility for a facility that serves residents throughout the district.

"If the Library Board is truly committed to maintaining library services in Antwerp Township, now is the time to move beyond statements of principle and demonstrate that commitment through meaningful financial participation in the facility from which those services are provided. Antwerp Township remains willing to continue discussions in good faith, but any lasting solution must acknowledge the unique circumstances that exist, the notice given for the 1997 agreement, and the need for a partnership that fairly allocates the costs of preserving this important community asset.

"Our residents deserve a solution, not a continued stalemate."

Daniel J. Ruzick
Antwerp Township Supervisor

Paw Paw District Library celebrates America 250

As America prepares to mark its 250th anniversary on July 4, the Paw Paw District Library presented the first of several events scheduled over the coming months as part of America 250. On Wednesday, June 3, the library's Local History Librarian, Martha Deming Maytnier, and history buff and reenactor, Steve Rigoni, of Paw Paw, presented a special tour of Pioneer Cemetery, the first recorded cemetery in Paw Paw. The tour included a presentation by Rigoni of one of the cemetery's permanent resident and Revolutionary War veteran William Dyckman, Jr.

Courier-Leader photos Paul Garrod

BLOOMINGDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2026 GRADUATES

VALEDICTORIAN
Miguel Mendez Gomez

SALUTATORIAN
Allie King

Nayeli Christina Acosta
Lindy Andrade Marquez
Lianna Lee Ballenger
Angelique Alizé Aurore Bappel
Bradyn Fischer Bard
Nolan Hunter Bard
Mackenize Marie Barnes
Hannah Kay Billings
Robert Dale Bird
Tristan Riley Bird
Hailee Ann Blazys
Rylee Maddison Bond
Freddy Carrasco
Chayse Alexander Ciborski
Christopher Esteban Cleto Malin
Jacob Chester Clouse
Zachary Woodell Danes
Ryder Michael Flynn
Natalie Anne Gumpert
Matthew John Hassing Jr.
Joashua Herrera
Jayden Glenn Hicks
Deven Andrew Hitchcock
Connor Ethan Joseph Huff
Allie Faye King
Lionel Mariaca
Perla Marin
Alex Martinez
Kevin Martinez
Miguel Angel Mendez Gomez
Jesse Jay Vernon Munn
Dale Null
Mauricio Paz Jr.
Jorge Paz-Soto Jr.
Mareli Perales Mojarro
Yaritza Perales
Javon Pittsley
Malana Leeanne Polaskey
Maria Guadalupe Ramirez
Jose Ruben Ramos
Aiden William Reilly
Emma Grace Reynolds
Patrick John Douglas Robinson
Jared Roel Rodas
Chris Romero Diaz
Adan Ruvira
Isaias Salamanca-Salazar
Dominic Andrew Schellenberg
Xalayn Marie Schoolcraft
Abby Kaitlyn Siuda
Anna Marie Steinman
Andrew Michael Suranyi
Lorena Sustaita
Doug Weishuhn
Devin Albert Williams

HIGH HONOR GRADUATES

Aiden Reilly, Lorena Sustaita

HIGHEST HONOR GRADUATES

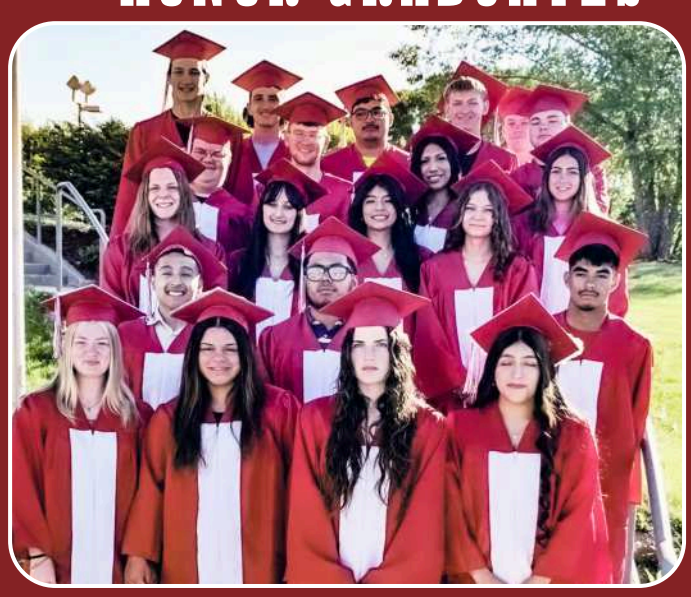
Zachary Danes, Abby Siuda, Allie King, Miguel Mendez Gomez

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 2026 BHS GRADUATES

Mackenzie Barnes	
Dee Wesbey Memorial Pullman Pride Scholarship	$1,000.00
Jacob Clouse	
CTS Skilled Trades Scholarship	$1,000.00
Zachary Danes	
Van Buren Tech/Lakeview Foundation	$2,000.00
Bloomingdale Area Schools Foundation	$1,000.00
William “Bill” Lake Memorial Scholarship	$5,000.00
Natalie Gumpert	
Kevin Kluskowski Memorial Scholarship	$500.00
Allie King	
Van Buren Tech Health Cluster	$1,000.00
Bloomingdale Area School Foundation	$1,000.00
Perla Marin	
Hazel “Dust” Stone Memorial Scholarship	$4,400.00
Alex Martinez	
Bravo Community CRC Youth Group Scholarship	$1,000.00
Dee Wesbey Memorial Pullman Pride Scholarship	$1,000.00
CTS Skilled Trades Scholarship	$1,000.00
Miguel Mendez Gomez	
William “Bill” Lake Memorial Scholarship	$2,500.00
Yaritza Perales	
William “Bill” Lake Memorial Scholarship	$2,500.00
Maria Ramirez	
Raven Morrison Scholarship	$1,000.00
Emma Reynolds	
Van Buren Tech/ Lakeview Foundation	$2,000.00
Van Buren Tech Human Services Cluster Scholarship	$1,000.00
Van Buren County Association of School Boards	$500.00
Bloomingdale Area School Foundation	$1,000.00
Abby Siuda	
Van Buren County Association of School Boards	$500.00
Lakeview Foundation 2 year Renewable	$3,000.00
Lakeview Foundation 2 year Renewable	$4,000.00
Lorena Sustaita	
Dee Wesbey Memorial Pullman Pride Scholarship	$1,000.00
Bloomingdale Area School Foundation	$1,000.00
William “Bill” Lake Memorial Scholarship 4 year Renewable	$5,500.00

HONOR GRADUATES

Nayeli Acosta
Bradyn Bard
Mackenzie Barnes
Hannah Billings
Hailee Blazys
Chayse Ciborski
Natalie Gumpert
Matthew Hassing Jr.
Connor Huff
Perla Marin
Alex Martinez
Jesse Munn
Dale Null
Mauricio Paz Jr.
Yaritza Perales
Maria Ramirez
Emma Reynolds
Jared Rodas
Adan Ruvira
Xalayn Schoolcraft
Andrew Suranyi

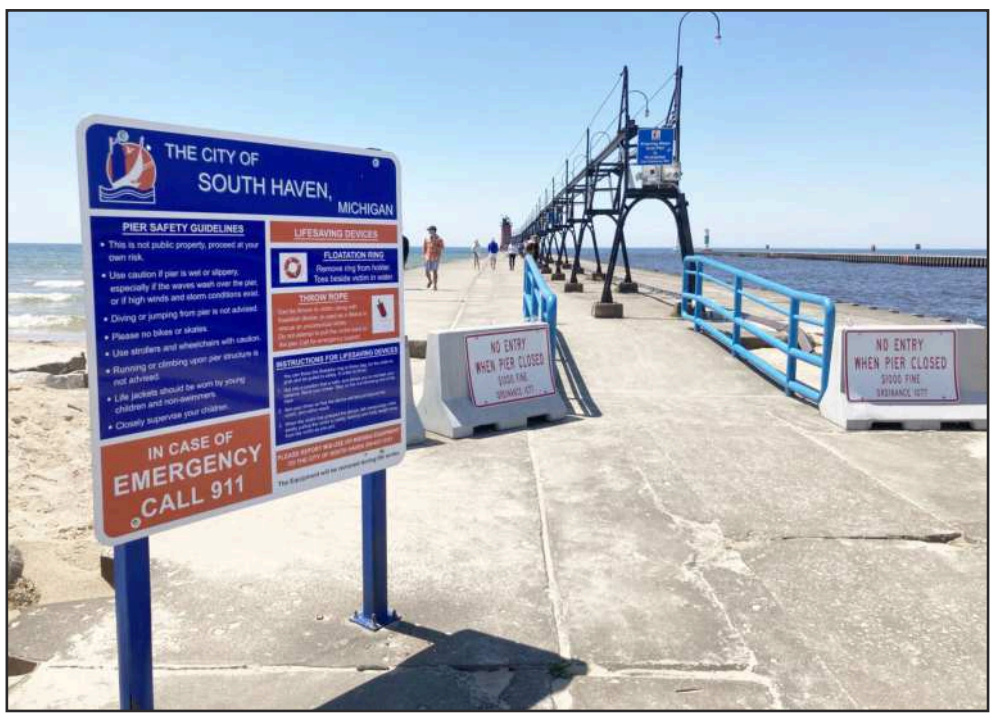


NATIONAL HONOR SOCIATY

Mackenzie Barnes
Hannah Billings
Hailee Blazys
Zachary Danes
Allie King
Lionel Mariaca
Miguel Mendez Gomez
Yaritza Perales
Abby Siuda
Aiden Reilly
Emma Reynolds
Lorena Sustaita

2ND FRONT PAGE

South Haven City Council approves beach safety update



By James Windell

It was in May, 2007 that the South Haven City Council approved a resolution establishing a water safety program for the City. Seven years later, in 2014, the Marty Jordan/City of South Haven Beach Safety Program was created.

Martin "Marty" Jordan was a 45 year old man who drowned in Lake Michigan in August 2009 after saving his son and niece during dangerous water conditions. His family later pursued legal action, arguing that the city needed stronger safety measures to warn swimmers about dangerous conditions. The case settled in 2013.

However, the settlement required South Haven to implement a comprehensive beach safety program, which included a flag warning system at both city beaches and all seven access points; installation of 911 emergency call boxes on each beach, installed the following spring; and a permanent memorial plaque honoring Marty Jordan to be placed near the beach, with a dedication ceremony for the family. These requirements formed the foundation of what is now known as the Marty Jordan/ South Haven City Beach & Pier Safety Program.

This program includes:

•Expanded warning signage

•Beach warning flag systems

•Pier safety signs

•Life rings and throw bag stations

•Updated rules for swimming near piers

•A detailed safety equipment and signage map for all city beaches

The program has been revised multiple times since 2014 and remains the foundation of South Haven's modern beach safety system.

At the City Council meeting on June 1, 2026, the City Council was asked to approve an update to the beach safety program. City Manager Kate Hosier introduced the item by stating that "We try to make sure that what we have in the Beach Safety Plan reflects what we are doing actively out on the beaches."

Hosier went on to point out that an obvious change this summer is having lifeguards on South Beach. "So, we have made some updates to that plan," Hosier said. "We also have included the new signage that has been ordered for the different areas. We do know that some of our signage was outdated, but we do have new signage that has been ordered, and that's been installed in the plan."

Before the update came to a vote, Councilwoman Mary Hosley asked Hosier if the lifeguards would be recording statistics. "I know we are not USLA (United State Lifeguard Association) approved, but USLA has a litany of items that they record," Hosley said. "I was just wondering, like, beach counts, interventions, lifeguard activities for stopping people from entering on red flags, or stopping use of the not permitted flotation devices, and minor or major medical rescues?"

Hosier responded with a straightforward "Yes."

A motion was then made to approve the updated beach safety plan. It was passed by a unanimous vote.

The Marty Jordan/South Haven City Beach Safety Program can be found in the agenda packet for the June 1, 2026 City Council at //southhavencitymi.documents-on-demand.com/?l=c01096b23658e-71180be001fbc00ed85&r=-04077C943A68DA0BDF-329DA74835F31C&d=ba-9523f90a5af111a49a-000c29a59557

OBITUARY

Joyce Elaine Johnston

Joyce Elaine Johnston, 88, of Buchanan, Michigan, passed away on May 20, 2026, at Buchanan Meadows Living Center. She was born on Jan. 5, 1938, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the daughter of William and Marie Wenthe.

Joyce will not be easily forgotten by those whose lives she touched. She remained independent, spirited, and true to herself until the very end. She loved deeply and fought for the causes she believed in, donating both time and money to environmental and animal welfare organizations, including the Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, Timber Wolf Preservation Society, and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.

Joyce married artist Robert Johnston in 1962. They met at Hastings College in Nebraska, where he taught in the Art Department and she was a music major focusing on voice. They lived in several states throughout Robert's academic career before settling in Southwest Michigan, and raised a family together, while Robert taught primarily Art History at Western Michigan University.

Joyce shared her lifelong love of music by playing organ and piano for weddings and church services, primarily at St. Luke's Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Joyce was a huge baseball fan, and remained true to her beloved Milwaukee Brewers. A few years after Robert's passing, she returned to Milwaukee, a city that always held a special place in her heart.

Often found with a book in hand, Joyce also enjoyed visiting art galleries, museums, classic car shows, and theatrical productions, particularly at small and unique venues. She loved classic movies shown in vintage theaters, walks in the park, and exploring new places. Friends and family knew her as an excellent tour guide.

Joyce was fiercely proud of her father William Wenthe, who cofounded Wenthe-Davidson Engineering Company, with founding partner Arthur Davidson of Harley-Davidson, at 31st and Cherry Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and now located in New Berlin, Wisconsin. The company has been in business since 1941 and is now wholly employee owned.

Joyce is preceded in death by her husband, Robert Johnston, and sons, Andrew Johnston and Michael Johnston.

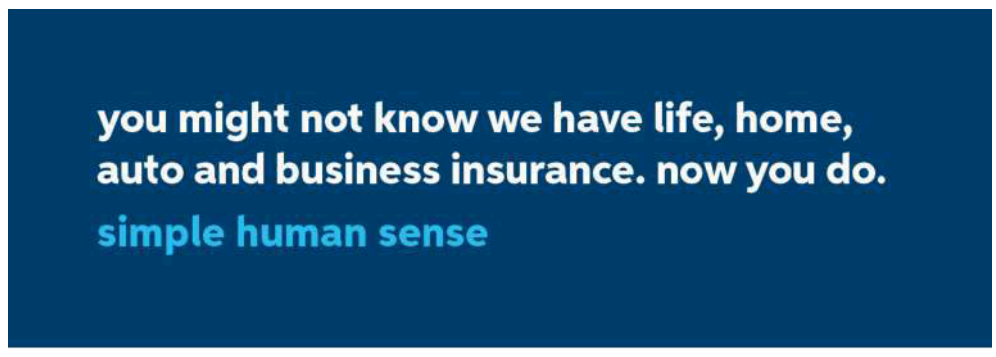
Joyce is survived by her daughter, Paula Johnston; grandchildren, Ashley Hillard, Adam Johnston, and Ayden Johnston; and several nieces and nephews.

Family and friends were invited to visit on Monday, June 1, at Adams Funeral Home, 502 W. Michigan Avenue, Paw Paw, where a funeral service was held. Joyce was laid to rest at Wildey Cemetery immediately following.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

Getting Soaked at the end of the school year

On Tuesday, June 2, Paw Paw Early Elementary students took part in the annual Water World Day, with help from the Paw Paw Fire Department. Photo courtesy/Paw Paw Public Schools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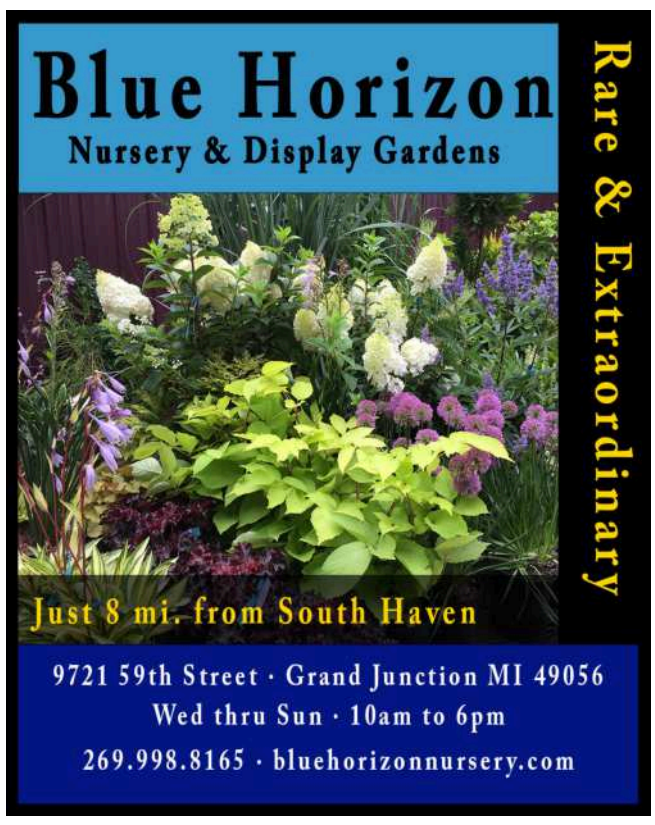
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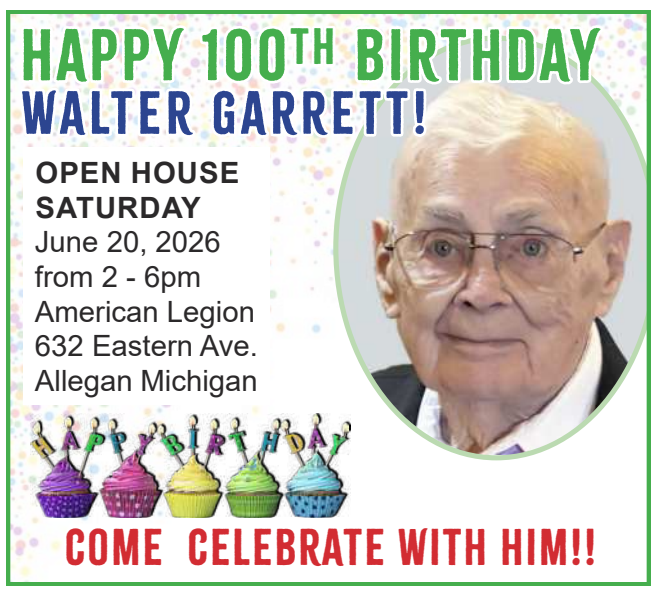


SH Planning Commission elects officers and discusses conflict of interest

By James Windell

Ryan Servatius attended his first Planning Commission meeting on June 4, 2026, and was welcomed by other commissioners.

By joining the commission, the Planning Commission is now fully staffed. Noting that, Chair Bob Sherman said they needed to elect officers for the year.

A motion was quickly made and seconded to retain Sherman as Chair and Larry Heinig as Vice Chair. A roll call vote ended in Sherman and Heinig being unanimously approved as officers.

Just prior to the election, commissioner Tim Stegeman told the commission that he wanted to discuss eligibility of members to participate in the discussion. He was specifically referring to the pending discussion of the site concept for 419 Phoenix Street. He pointed out that he worked at South Pier Creamery, which was less than 300 feet away from 419 Phoenix. He reminded commissioners that a rule of the Planning Commission is that anyone within 300 feet of a property coming before the commission should be considered to have a conflict of interest and should be excused from discussion and votes. Stegeman said he was also a voting member of two clubs that were also within 300 feet of the former Golden Brown Bakery building.

Clark Gruber said he was a member of Consumers Credit Union, which is also nearby. Does that make him ineligible to be part of the discussion?

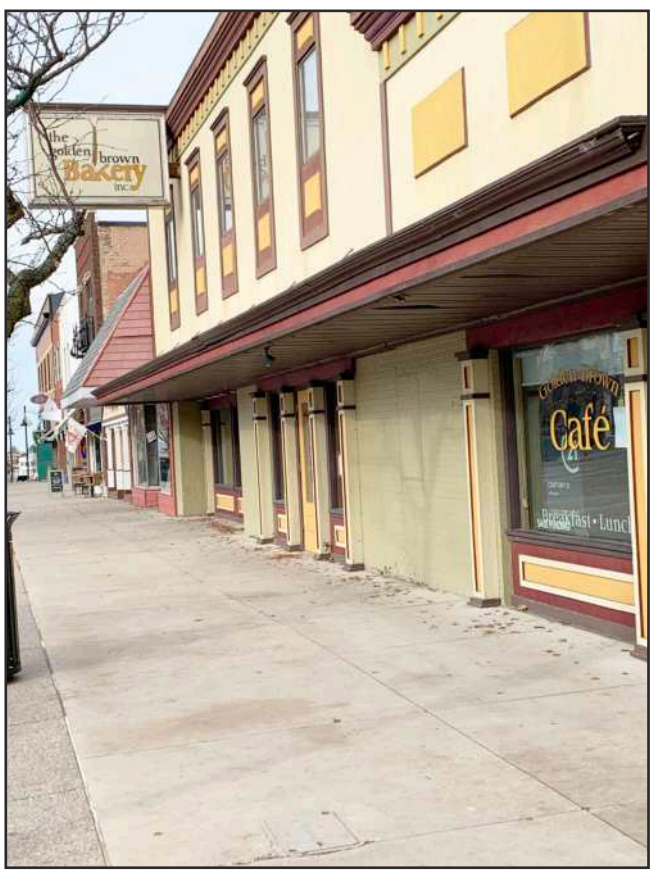
Chairman Bob Sherman said the Planning Commission bylaws specifically reads that "Participation by a member in a public hearing, lobbying, or voting on any of the following would be a conflict of interest." He then pointed out that there was no public hearing on the matter during the meeting. "There's no lobbying going on, "Sherman said. "This is an informational thing. This is an idea-sharing meeting thing, and we're certainly not voting on any items here. So, it seems to me there could be no conflict tonight. Now, if in a future meeting there is a request for a rezoning, perhaps to a PUD or other types, then that would be reconsidered."

Another member suggested that the matter be referred to the city attorney in order to get a legal opinion as to what under the current language would be a conflict.

Commissioner George Sleeper offered his comments. "I guess my thought on this is that our purpose tonight is to advise the applicant on this potential project and give them feedback that will be helpful to them," he said. "I would personally like to see everybody provide that feedback because I think the experience of everyone here is going to be helpful, and I think it would end up with a better project in the end."

After more discussion, it was decided that the city attorney would clarify what constituted a conflict of interest. Chairman Sherman concluded the discussion by saying that the city attorney can come back with an opinion "and we can defer that to a future meeting in case an item comes forward that might lead to some conflict."

South Haven Planning Commission reviews concept for downtown PUD



By James Windell

If Model Theater, LLC, can obtain city permission, they plan to turn part of the former Golden Brown Bakery building into a PUD – a planned unit development.

As an initial step in reaching that goal, Cottage Home appeared at the Planning Commission meeting on June 4, 2026, to present the concept of what the owners have in mind.

When the item came up on the agenda, Kelly Getman-Dissette, Zoning Administrator, told the Planning Commission that this was simply a concept review for a PUD at 419 Phoenix Street, the location of the former Golden Brown Bakery. "The applicants are seeking the concept review of their sketch plan," Getman-Dissette said. "This is permitted by the city's planned unit development ordinance. This allows for discussion between the applicant and the planning commission to inform the applicant of the acceptability of their proposed plans prior to incurring extensive engineering costs that will be necessary for PUD review."

She emphasized that the Planning Commission would make no decisions at this meeting, but they were being asked to provide general advice to the applicants about whether the plan complies with the purpose and intent of the PUD ordinance.

Getman-Dissette then introduced two Cottage Home staff to present the concept to the commission. Brian Bosgraaf, the president and owner of Cottage Home, said that his company primarily designs and builds new homes in the area. Although the PUD is not a residential property. He said that he agreed to take on the project. He turned the microphone over to Eric Leatherberry, the project manager for this PUD, to describe the concept.

Leatherberry said the plan calls for extensive remodeling of the existing structure and would include ground level retail spaces with 12 hotel rooms on the second and third floors, as well as a rooftop gathering and event space. The rooftop space would include a hot tub, a sauna, restrooms and tables. There would be three on-site parking spaces proposed behind the building.

Leatherberry indicated that with the structures on the rooftop the height would exceed by perhaps two feet the maximum height allowed of 45 feet and he said they may be seeking approval of a variance to go above 45 feet.

This generated considerable discussion among commission members about the history of the height limit and why that limit was chosen. No member could really answer that question, but several commission members suggested that they should consider an ordinance change to allow buildings to be constructed above 45 feet. In addition, no building is allowed to have a fourth story and members thought that was arbitrary as well.

However, other issues were raised. These included whether the open roof concept would lead to noise and the possibility that 12 hotel rooms would contribute to downtown parking concerns.

Commissioner Stegeman suggested that since parking is constantly an issue downtown that it might be well to discuss the city building a parking garage. While most commissioners seemed to favor the proposed PUD as an enhancement to South Haven's downtown, most also agreed that building height limit could be a deterrent to potential downtown developers and changing that should be discussed in future Planning Commission meetings.

Sheriff announces new water safety initiatives

PAW PAW - The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office has announced two new water safety initiatives aimed at enhancing public safety and promoting responsible boating during the 2026 boating season.

Through the Yamaha Law Loan Program, Platinum Powersports of Coloma has provided the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Marine Division with a 2026 Yamaha Personal Watercraft (PWC). The new PWC will be stationed in South Haven and utilized for marine patrol operations, search and rescue missions, and law enforcement activities on the waterways of Van Buren County.

The addition of the PWC will enhance the Marine Division's ability to respond quickly to emergencies. Personal watercraft offer several advantages over larger patrol boats, including faster response times, improved maneuverability, and the ability to operate in shallow water. These capabilities are especially beneficial during water rescue situations where every second counts.

The Sheriff's Office expressed its thanks to Platinum Powersports and Yamaha for their continued support of public safety and their commitment to helping law enforcement agencies better serve their communities.

In addition, Sheriff Abbott said the South Haven McDonald's has partnered with the Marine Division to promote boating safety among young boaters. The restaurant has generously donated 150 ice cream coupons that deputies will distribute to children who are observed wearing their life jackets while enjoying the county's waterways, according to Sheriff Abbott.

"This is a great opportunity to positively reinforce safe boating habits among our youngest boaters," said Sheriff Abbott. "We appreciate South Haven McDonald's for supporting this effort and helping us encourage life jacket use."

Sheriff Abbott reminds boaters that Michigan law requires children under the age of six to wear a properly fitted life jacket at all times while on board a vessel. He strongly encourages all boaters, regardless of age, to wear a life jacket whenever they are underway.

"Summertime and boating go hand in hand in Van Buren County," said Sheriff Abbott. "Our lakes and rivers provide wonderful opportunities for recreation and relaxation. However, accidents can happen in the blink of an eye. Being prepared, wearing a life jacket, operating your vessel responsibly, and never boating under the influence will help ensure that everyone returns safely to the dock."

The Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Marine Division will continue its efforts throughout the boating season to educate boaters, enforce marine safety laws, and provide assistance to those enjoying the county's waterways.

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South Haven Chamber of Commerce celebrates business excellence

Tom Renner was the well-deserved winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

By James Windell

Each June the South Haven Area Chamber of Commerce gathers to honor the good works and best practices of its members. Celebrating its 94th year, Chamber members met at Moose Lodge Family Center in South Haven for the Chamber's Annual Dinner Celebration and the announcement of the Business Excellence Award winners.

"With a packed house, we had the privilege of celebrating not only 94 years of the South Haven Area Chamber of Commerce, but also the incredible businesses, organizations, leaders, and community members who make South Haven such a special place to live, work, and visit," said Brandy Key, Executive Director of the Chamber.

The first award was handed to the very first recipient of the Chamber's Give Back program, Hideaway Salon and Spa. Hideaway Salon and Spa was given the award because "they have already shown a true passion of becoming involved in our community and growing their business here in South Haven." As recipient of the Give Back Award, the Chamber will support Hideaway Salon and Spa on their journey as a relatively new business.

Winning the award for Established Business of the Year was Baseline Auto Group, LLC. Founded in 2019, Baseline Auto Group specializes in pre-owned vehicle sales and auto detailing. In presenting the award, Josh Bailey of Republic Services characterized Baseline Auto Group as having a reputation for quality, honesty, and reliability.

Heidi Gesiakowski, co-owner of Taste, presented the Innovative Business of the Year Award. Calling the business a "true example of what it means to be innovative in today's business landscape," Gesiakowski said that Bend Yoga, LLC, rather than asking clients to fit into a traditional studio model Bend Yoga meets people where they are, offering private sessions, creative pop-ups, and community-based experience "that flex around real life." Gesiakowski pointed out that what sets Bend Yoga apart is how they've reimagined yoga as more than just a class.

"Through collaborations with local businesses, wellness events, and social gatherings, they've transformed yoga into something approachable, welcoming, and woven into the fabric of the community," Gesiakowski added.

Tom Rummel, owner of Hardt Insurance, presented the New Business of the Year Award. That award went to Haven Market, which Rummel referred to as "so much more than a new business."

"It's quickly become part of the heart of downtown South Haven," Rummel said. "Since opening in 2025, Michelle O'Neil has created a space that feels warm, welcoming, and deeply rooted in care for this community." Rummel noted that more than 75 percent of its products are sourced from Michigan farmers, artisans, and makers.

"Inspired by owner Michelle O'Neil's personal commitment to feeding her family well, the market reflects a genuine dedication to health and wellness," Rummel said, "filling an important gap with convenient, nutrient-rich options for everyday life. What makes Haven Market especially deserving of the New Business of the Year Award is not only what it offers on its shelves, but the spirit behind it. From day one, Michelle has embraced South Haven with enthusiasm and generosity, staying open late, participating in events like Holiday in the Park, New Year's Eve, and Icebreaker, all while consistently showing a willingness to collaborate, partner, and give back."

The Manufacturer of the Year Award was announced by Kevin Hagan of State Farm Insurance in South Haven. In presenting the award to W.R. Grace's South Haven site, Hagan said that W.R. Grace was given the award in recognition of the company's outstanding contributions to manufacturing excellence and community leadership. "Since beginning operations in the late 1970s, this facility has been a steady source of quality and stable employment for generations of local residents," Hagan said. "Through decades of economic shifts, industry changes, and ownership transitions, the site has remained resilient, adapting, growing, and continuing to deliver operational excellence without losing sight of its core identity. At the heart of its success is a simple but powerful set of values: people, products, productivity, and profit, in that order."

The recipient of the Nonprofit of the Year was South Haven Festival of Cars: Kruisin' for Kylie. Presenting the award was Angela LaBarca of Corwell Health Hospice and Palliative Care of Southwest Michigan. "We're honored to recognize an organization that has turned a shared passion into a powerful and lasting impact on our community," LaBarca said. "For the past 15 years, the South Haven Festival of Cars: Kruisin' for Kylie has brought people together, not just to celebrate a love of cars, but to rally around something much bigger than themselves. What began as a fundraiser has grown into a meaningful tradition rooted in compassion, generosity, and purpose."

LaBarca noted that over those 15 years, the organization has raised over $112,000 in support of those affected by cystic fibrosis.

Announcing the winner of the Community Impact Award was Krissy Larson of the South Haven Banking Center, a division of Sturgis Bank and Trust. Larson said that the recipient of the award, Katie Parrish, was being recognized for her strong and lasting impact on local business. "With a clear vision and a deep commitment to supporting downtown businesses, Katie saw a need to bring more people downtown during slower seasonal periods, and she turned that idea into action," Larson said.

Parrish is the driving force behind the popular Muffins and Mimosas and more and the Shop 'Till You Drop events. "Katie has helped turn simple concepts into two highly anticipated weekends that bring people together and encourage shopping local," Larson said.

The final award of the evening was the Lifetime Achievement Award. The winner was Tom Renner, who was described as a Rotarian, historian, and the unofficial photographer of our community. Renner has spent more than 60 years helping preserve the history, spirit, and everyday life of the city.

"From high school sports to the community celebrations, from civic events to quiet moments that might go otherwise unseen, Tom has documented it all," the presenter said. "His photographs have become a living archive of this community's people, its milestones, and its memories."

Are Pickleball Courts in downtown SH's future?

By James Windell

When David Flack, South Haven City Council Ward 3 representative, appeared before the Downtown Development Authority on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, he wasn't in his capacity as a city councilman.

Instead, he was there as community resident David Flack who came to present an idea.

Speaking to the DDA, Flack began, "Downtown spaces work best when people use them, and we have a huge opportunity in this space, to develop into an attraction and activity, something for the community, an amenity that literally no other town can offer right in the heart of our town. So, I want to present to you today: Pickleball at the Pavilion."

Noting that the Huron Street Pavillion was recently renovated with new concrete, Flack said: "It's an idea I've had for a long time, and now here I am presenting it. Having 20 pickleball people rotate through our town on a continuous basis in a space today where we park 38 cars, I think is good for business. I think it's going to attract a lot of people here that will linger here, which pickleballers tend to do, and hopefully spend money here."

In other words, Flack suggested turning the Pavillion into five pickleball courts which could be used for pickleball enthusiasts most days of the week.

"Pickleball at the Pavilion has a lot of benefits," Flack told the DDA. "Pickleball is a hugely growing sport. One in six people play it today. And we have a huge need for additional courts, and our pickleball club has been working to try to develop those courts, but they come at a significant expense. The superpower we have here is we have a facility that's already built that we could simply resurface at a fraction of the cost to build new pickleball courts."

Using slides and layouts for how the courts may be configured at the Pavillion, Flack said that the Pavillion is underutilized and his idea from could result in $25,000 to $50,000 in profit per year for the city. However, he emphasized that this was not the reason for his idea. "The reason for doing this is the activity, the people, and the excitement that it would draw to our community," he said.

Following Flack's presentation, there was considerable discussion by the DDA. One of the most critical issues raised by DDA members would be the loss of 38 parking spaces. Citing the shortages of parking spaces in downtown South Haven, some members seemed to see this as a barrier to taking over those parking spaces under the Pavillion for pickleball courts. Another important issue to some members was the noise factor and how this might affect the area around the Pavillion and Dyckman Park. A third consideration raised was whether the shop owners in the central business district would welcome the idea of pickleball courts in that area.

Although Flack conceded that he did not have all the answers, he added: "I'm just a private citizen here with a good idea."

Sue Brock, DDA Director, suggested that DDA members think about the pros and cons of the pickleball courts at the Pavillion and be prepared to talk about them at the next DDA meeting. "Ultimately," she said, "the City Council would have the final vote in the matter."

South Haven celebrates re-opening of pavilion

By Tom Renner

City officials celebrated the completion of a project to rehabilitate the downtown South Haven pavilion with a ribbon cutting on Tuesday.

The $800,000 project will improve the winter-time ice skating rink with a more efficient in-pad cooling system and will better accommodate other functions at the pavilion such as the farm market. The project was originally planned in two phases but the contractor accomplished it all in one.

"This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication, hard work and commitment of our incredible staff, Downtown Development Authority board members and city officials," said DDA Director Suzanne Brock.

The farm market will return to the pavilion this Wednesday.

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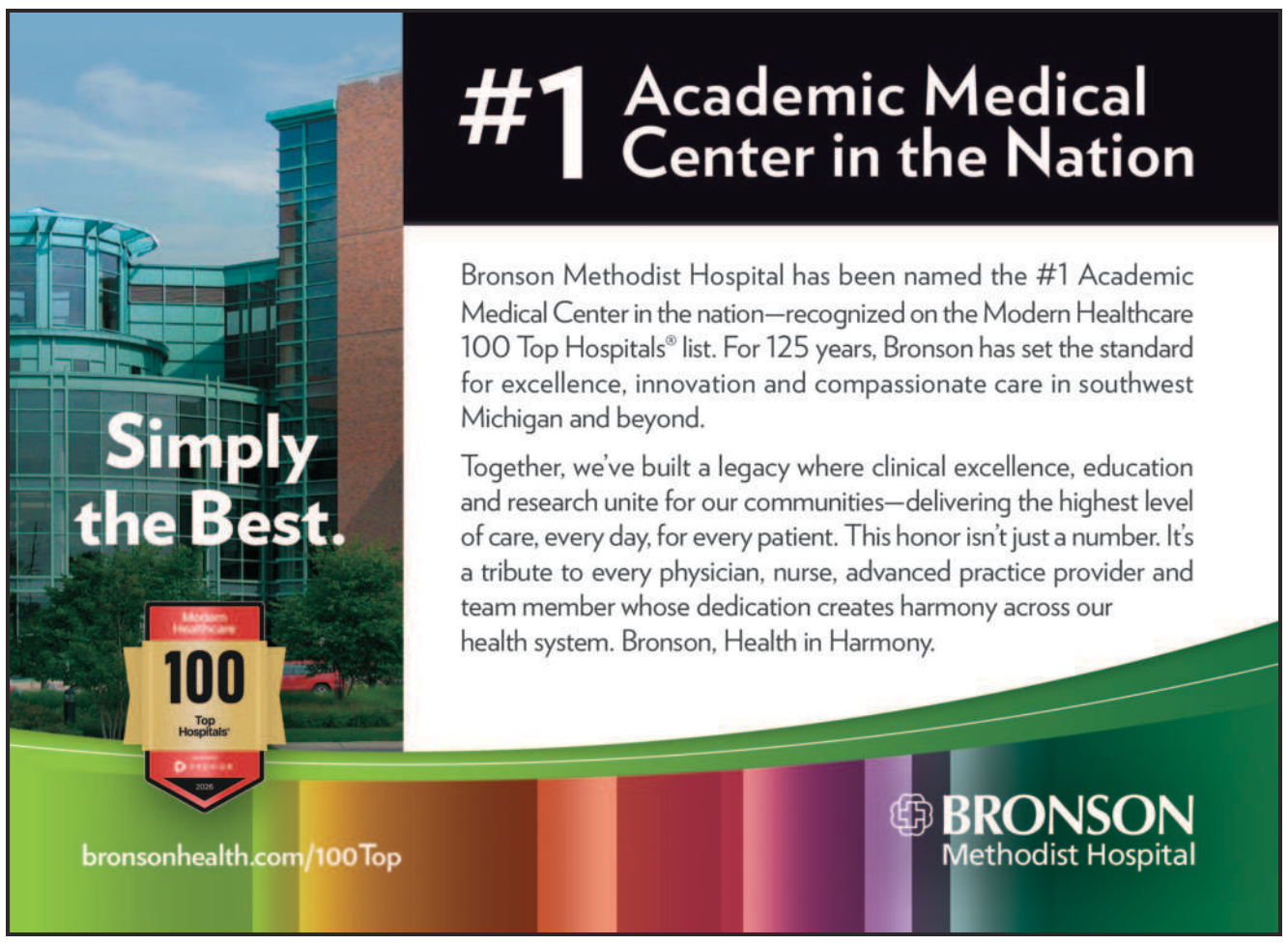
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VIEWPOINT

Mental Health: A Crisis We Can No Longer Ignore

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

I used to think alcoholism was the biggest problem facing Americans. Along with drugs it certainly is a disease that affects many of us. However, mental health is a much bigger problem and when you combine it with alcohol. you have a real recipe for disaster.

Mental health is often treated as an afterthought. Millions of people struggle with anxiety, depression, stress, loneliness, and other mental health challenges every day. These struggles affect students in classrooms, employees in workplaces, parents at home, and people in every community. While awareness of mental health has improved over the years, awareness alone is not enough. We must move from simply talking about mental health to actively addressing it.

I don't know much about students in the classroom other than many of our serial killers are mentally ill. I have, however experienced employees in the workplace going off the deep end. It's not pleasant. One day they are as nice as can be and then the next day they are filled with anxiety and hate.

One of the biggest problems surrounding mental health is stigma. Many people are afraid to seek help because they worry about being judged or seen as weak. Society has often encouraged people to "tough it out" or keep their struggles private. This mindset can prevent people from getting the support they need. Mental health should be viewed in the same way as physical health. If someone breaks a bone, they seek medical treatment. The same should be true when someone experiences emotional or psychological pain.

Education is one of the strongest tools we have to fight this problem. Schools should teach students about stress management, emotional well-being, and coping skills from an early age. Understanding mental health can help people recognize warning signs in themselves and others before problems become severe.

Communities and workplaces also have an important role to play. Employers can provide mental health resources, flexible support systems, and encourage healthier work-life balance. Families and friends can create safe environments where people feel comfortable speaking honestly without fear of criticism.

Access to care is another major challenge. Mental health services can be expensive or difficult to obtain, especially in underserved communities. Expanding access to counselors, therapists, and support programs should be a priority. Help should not depend on where someone lives or how much money they have.

Fighting mental health issues will not happen through one solution alone. It requires changing attitudes, increasing education, improving access to care, and showing compassion toward others. Small actions can make a difference: checking in on a friend, listening without judgment, or encouraging someone to seek help.

Mental health affects all of us in one way or another. Ignoring it only allows the problem to grow. If we want healthier communities and a stronger society, we must recognize that caring for mental health is not optional—it is essential.

Sheriff's Report - Undersheriff Davis comes to aid of young men involved in vehicle accident

"I would like to give a shout out to Undersheriff Casey Davis for what he did off duty. Undersheriff Davis and his wife were in Texas Township in Kalamazoo County getting gas when a traffic crash happened on the road by them. He immediately checked on those involved and found there were no serious injuries. The driver of one of the vehicles was occupied by three young men on their way to their graduation ceremony being held at Miller Auditorium. The undersheriff made contact with the high school principal about what took place so they could stall if need be so the kids wouldn't miss it. Undersheriff Davis then drove all the young men to their graduation so they wouldn't miss it. The family of the driver reached out to let me know this took place and to let me know how much it meant to the family," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

"Members of our Office of Domestic Preparedness attended the 9th annual North American Active Assailant Conference in Troy, Mi. It is the largest event of its kind and was attended by law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical services, corporate security, emergency management, and other stakeholders responsible for active violence prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. They were given a wealth of information that aids them in doing their jobs at a high level," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Thank you South Haven Area Community Foundation for the generous donation to our reserve division. The funds will be put to good use aiding the division to upgrade their portable radios," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Congratulations to Sergeant Rich Rennack on being promoted to lieutenant and Detective Chad Hunt on being promoted to Uniform Response Sergeant. Both have worked hard in their career and will no doubt continue to excel in their new roles," said Sheriff Abbott.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled a serious one vehicle crash that went off the roadway into the trees in Bloomingdale Township. "The 21-year-old driver fell asleep, went off the road, and hit some trees. The driver was extricated and air lifted to the hospital due to the life-threatening injuries," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled an assault in Columbia Township. The suspect fled the scene prior to deputy's arrival. "Deputies are actively looking for the suspect, and the report was sent to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for charges," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uiform Response handled a larceny from a motor vehicle in Bloomingdale Township. Numerous Milwaukee tools and batteries were stolen out of a parked work truck in a field. "The initials BG were written on them with a Sharpie marker. Anyone with information on this is asked to call our office," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a single vehicle rollover crash in Keeler Township. The 16-year-old driver was driving too fast on a gravel road, lost control, went off the road, and overturned," said Sheriff Abbott. The driver was not seriously hurt in the crash.

Uniform Response handled a car versus tree accident in Porter Township. The 24-year-old was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol. The passenger was transported to the hospital for their injuries.

"Our Court Security Deputies arrested an individual that ran out of a sentencing hearing at Paw Paw District Court. Deputies were able to catch the individual and place them in custody. They now will go back in front of Judge McKay for the new charge," said Sheriff Abbott.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Indivisible makes false claims

Dear Editor.

Last Saturday our Decatur VFW post was once again the location of the Van Buren County Republican Party's annual Lincoln Day Banquet. This yearly event commemorates our first Republican U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, remembering that the Republican Party was originally created in opposition to slavery in America as well to be a political party for those who desired to preserve our nation's founding principles.

I don't know what time the bus dropped them off, the clownfest locally known as Indivisible. As they were already camped out on the sidewalk in front of the VFW when we arrived, they had everything but balloon animals and stilts. One of the most beautiful days yet this spring and here they are protesting. Protesting what? It doesn't really matter; it appears just America in general.

As much as Indivisible likes to promote being a grassroots association the truth is they are a typical progressive astroturf entity principally financed by, among others, the Chinese Communist Party, through Communist sympathizer Neville Roy Singham, and the globalist oligarch George Soros through his Open Society Foundation. They are under the false impression that their boorish behavior and predictable display of no kings' and obsessive pedophilia signs have any meaningful significance.

Noah Webster defined the word indivisible, as an adjective, as "that cannot be divided, separated or broken." This appears to be one more glaring example of the duplicity of the left. Gallop, the polling organization, recently published the results of a poll they conducted from 2001 to 2025. They concluded that unlike Republicans, Democrats patriotism is more dependent on who is the U.S. President at the time. For example, under President G.W. Bush those Democrats claiming to be proud Americans stood at 74%, while under President Obama they hit about 84% and then about 42% for President Trump's first term. During President Biden's term they leveled out to about 61% and then dropped to about 36% for President Trump's second term. Not surprising, of those Republicans polled, they averaged right around 85% for the same time frame with a spike to 92% with President Trump's second election victory.

Today is a new day and the shine of last Saturday's sidewalk circus has worn off. Assessing the baseless claims of this group can be exhausting. But for a moment let's review a few of the groundless and hypocritical issues we hear far too often.

The absurd claim of President Trump as a king. Let's see, President Trump is a firm believer of individual liberty through minimal state and federal government as well as individual achievement rather than government provided welfare. He is an ardent proponent of America's Second Amendment including national concealed carry reciprocity. He would be the first king in history to allow such autonomy for his subjects. President Trump has been a breath of freedom for American citizens compared to the Obama and Biden anti-liberty regimes. And let's not forget Michigan's own Whitmer/Benson/Nessel Democrats have currently introduced bills to impose a three-day waiting period for the purchase of any firearm, banning magazines holding more than ten rounds as well as imposing severe restrictions on gun stores that will result in the closure of many businesses all of which are in direct violation of not only our U.S. Constitution but recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings.

We have been lectured by liberals that no one is above the law. Yet the new Democrats including the Whitmer/Benson/Nessel regime obviously believe they are. Not only with this raft of gun control bills but any anti-federal law enforcement or illegal immigrant sanctuary policies that are in direct violation of the Supremacy Clause, Article V, Clause 2 of our U.S. Constitution.

The false claims against Congressman Bill Huizenga have become boring. We have a liberal cousin in Indiana and hear the same rants from him in regards to his U.S. Congressman Republican Rudy Yakym as we hear locally against Congressman Huizenga. You see, this is just manufactured rage being employed by the left nationally against Republicans. Nothing honest about it, it's simply a ploy.

Progressives promote class warfare with their disdain for prosperity by individual achievement while they themselves take every opportunity to steal tax dollars for their own wealth and power all under the false premise of helping children, the elderly, poor, hungry or any demographic that can justify unquestioned tax dollar support.

Imagine being so consumed with unreasonable rage and hate that you are incapable of reason, the one trait that supposedly separates humans from all other animals. With this loss of reason, we are witnessing what appears to be the obvious devolution of the Democrat Party. Just as an animal will disembowel itself to scratch an itch, we see the new Democrats actively destroying the greatest nation in the history of the world without a clue as to what would follow.

Back to last Saturday's sad display. It's good to see some senior citizens having the opportunity to go outside on such a beautiful day while wearing their fun costumes. All while getting good cardio exercise lifting those heavy signs and pretending to be relevant.

Speaking of signs, I noticed one of their signs complaining about $5 gas prices. Remember that under Biden we had high gas prices over $5. I will gladly pay $5 a gallon to rid the world of any threat from Iran. But its Governor Whitmer that is keeping Michigan's fuel prices high in her attempt to sabotage President Trump's favorability with Michigan voters. You can fill up in South Bend today for $3.15. That's what we often do.

I do appreciate the protestors not disturbing our event. Truth be told I never heard a peep from them while we were inside the VFW, allowing us to spend an enjoyable time with nearly a couple hundred fellow American Patriots. I would have thanked them when we left but they had already vacated the area. I'm glad they all got home before dark.

Thank you.

John R. Young

Constituents protest Rep. Huizenga's pro-Trump policies

To The Editor:

Since 2023, Bill Huizenga has been the U.S. representative for Michigan's 4th congressional district, which spans much of the state's southwest including Van Buren County. As such, he was the keynote speaker at a Van Buren Republican Party fundraiser in Decatur on Saturday, May 30.

That day, in an event organized by the non-partisan group Indivisible Paw Paw, approximately 100+ constituents from his District 4 lined the sidewalk in front of the building and held signs advocating accountability for Huizenga. Participants included members of 3 different political parties, 4 different area Indivisible groups, Veterans 4 Democracy, and the Kalamazoo Visibility Brigade.

At the same time, an equal number of people sat inside the building listening to Huizenga's speech which began with a blatant denial of what his constituents outside represented. He deflected the messages outside by saying, "Those people aren't out there just for me. And they are not just there, frankly, for the president either. They are here for you!" Provoking fear and division, he continued, "They are here for you. They are coming for you, for your money, your values, and your schools."

I write today to assure Mr. Huizenga that I and all the others lining the sidewalk that day were, indeed, there to protest against him, specifically his unaccountability to his constituents. If he would only fulfill his duties to hold open hours at his taxpayer-funded offices, answer our phone calls, host or attend the often requested in-person town halls, or even drive slowly enough to read the signs held up, perhaps he would not be confused about the gathering on the sidewalk that day, or the crowds every Friday outside his Portage office for over a year. His failure to meet with, listen to, or in this case, read the signs of his constituents is the reason he is perceived as

"Un-representative Hide-zinga."

The people on that sidewalk have no interest or intention of taking away anyone's money or schools. And I hope that the people inside hold the same values of those outside: guaranteed Constitutional rights including equality, due process, governmental checks and balances, freedoms of speech, religion, and assembly. What we intend is to use those Constitutional values to hold Huizenga accountable. And many signs with his name on them were held up for that purpose. One sign disclosed his 2022 vote against women's rights to contraception. Other signs exposed his votes resulting in rising healthcare costs for the working class. Noted also, his support of increased tariffs and an unpopular war on Iran that have caused fuel and food costs to skyrocket.

Critical attention was also drawn to Huizenga's unwavering support of the first U.S. president to ever be convicted of criminal felonies (34 counts of falsifying records to conceal hush money payments to Stormy Daniels in 2024 and organizational tax fraud in 2022). Huizenga has also never flinched at the 2023 civil court conviction of Trump for sexual abuse of Jean Carrol, nor his continuing defamation and failure to pay the court-ordered compensatory damages to her. And of course, dissatisfaction was also expressed over Huizenga's acceptance of Trump's sweeping pardons for all 1,600 convicted January 6th insurrectionists.

So, Bill Huizenga, be an adult and accept the responsibility for that assembled group of your constituents on the sidewalk last Saturday. We, like the thousands of constituents who have spent hours outside your Portage office this past year, want to be acknowledged and listened to. Our many phone calls and letters of concern deserve more than a perfunctory form-letter reply. You have forgotten that you represent the people of District 4, not the occupant of the White House. It's as if you are a marionette with Trump your master, pulling your strings. And this relationship was very aptly illustrated in performance by a marionette duo during Saturday's protest. Sorry you missed it.

Sincerely,
Leonda Kessinger Shroyer
Precinct Delegate, Decatur Township

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Pullman Elementary
April and May Students of the Month

Congratulations to our April Students of the Month: Avery Taft, Hazel Baird, Mya Ciokewicz, Martha Herrera, Cielo Perales, Xochitl Tenorio, Lucas Leslie, Alvaro Zamora, Keily Garcia-Rojas, Mason Blackwell, and Everardo Garcia-Rojas.

Congratulations to our May Students of the Month: Joshmery Ortega-Morales, John Mears, Zaniyah Johnson, Julio Escobar-Navarro, Dilan Ramirez-Avila, Erick Martinez, Santos Ramos, Jaelynn Tenny, Gerson Castillo-Navarro.

Thank you for consistently demonstrating Cardinal PRIDE and always giving your best effort!

Steel Pan Drum Assembly

We had our final assembly of the school year, featuring a steel pan drum performance under the direction of Jean Raabe. Third, fourth and fifth grade students were able to showcase their talents by performing various songs including a favorite, The Lion Sleeps Tonight. Families, staff and studentsthoroughly enjoyed the musical experience!

On to Middle School

Congratulations to our Pullman Elementary 5th grade students! We are so proud of all you've accomplished. We will miss you and wish you the best in middle school.

FARMER FOR A DAY

Bloomingdale Elementary School recently partnered with local farms to provide students with an unforgettable "Farmer for a Day" experience. Students rotated through five engaging stations, each featuring hands-on activities connected to life on the farm. The stations highlighted important parts of local agriculture, including blueberries, bees, livestock, and tractors.

Throughout the day, students learned about farming practices, the importance of agriculture in our community, and the hard work that goes into producing local goods. The activities gave students the opportunity to explore and appreciate the rich agricultural culture that surrounds them.

To make the experience even more special, every student received a gift bag compliments of Ransler Dairy Farm. Students and staff alike had an amazing time working alongside members of the community and learning firsthand about the farming traditions that help make our area unique.

Thank you to all who participated: The event was sponsored by Van Buren County Farm Bureau.

The stations were run by local volunteer farmers:

- Sam Reidenbach, Wild Reid Ranch (Bee Station)
- Cheryl Sullins, Jubilee Blueberry Farm (Blueberry station)
- Andy & Michelle Greene, Ransler Dairy Farm (Dairy Station)
- Karen Percival, Hardrock Farms (Livestock Station)
- Josh Fritz, Brookside Farms (Harvester station)
- Tylor Kubiszak, Redline Farms (tractor station)
- Kristin Kubiszak, Pro-Motion and Education Chair; Van Buren Co. (MI Trivia Station)

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Class of 2026 Graduation Parade Celebrates Cardinal Pride and Community

The streets of Bloomingdale were filled with excitement, pride, and celebration as the Bloomingdale High School Class of 2026 participated in the annual Graduation Parade on Friday, May 29, 2026.

Graduates gathered with family members, friends, staff, and community supporters before making their way through the town in a procession that highlighted one of the most meaningful traditions of the school year. Dressed in their caps and gowns, the seniors proudly waved to spectators who lined the parade route to celebrate their accomplishments and wish them success in the next chapter of their lives.

The Graduation Parade serves as a special opportunity for the Bloomingdale community to recognize the hard work, perseverance, and achievements of the graduating class. Community members cheered enthusiastically as the graduates traveled through town, demonstrating the strong support that exists for Bloomingdale students both inside and outside the classroom.

Prior to the parade, graduates participated in the annual Senior Walks at Bloomingdale Elementary School and Pullman Elementary School. During these visits, seniors walked through the hallways of their former schools while younger students and staff applauded their accomplishments. The Senior Walks provided an inspiring reminder to younger students that dedication and perseverance can lead to the important milestone of high school graduation.

The parade was more than a celebration of academic achievement; it was a reflection of the relationships, memories, and experiences that have shaped the Class of 2026 throughout their educational journey. From classrooms and athletic fields to fine arts performances and community service projects, the graduates have left a lasting impact on Bloomingdale High School.

Principal Brandon Lukes reflected on the significance of the event, sharing, "The Graduation Parade is one of my favorite traditions because it allows our entire community to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates. The Class of 2026 has demonstrated resilience, determination, and growth throughout their high school years. We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make in their communities and beyond."

Bloomingdale High School extends its sincere appreciation to the families, staff members, community organizations, law enforcement personnel, and community supporters who helped make the Graduation Parade a memorable experience for the Class of 2026.

Congratulations to the Bloomingdale High School Class of 2026! Your Cardinal family is proud of you and wishes you success as you pursue your future goals and aspirations.

Candidate forum perk interest for mid-term election

By Ann Burch

PAW PAW – Those attending a candidate forum on June 6 in Paw Paw got a quick refresher in civics when the three candidates vying for different districts in the November election spoke to the group. If you thought elections were generally confusing, then this may only add to your befuddlement.

Hosted by Indivisible Paw Paw at the Lucky Wolf, the candidate forum included Michigan 19th District Sen. Sean McCann, who is seeking the U.S. 4th District House seat currently held by Rep. Bill Huizenga; 41st state House Rep. Julie Rogers running for McCann's position in the 19th Senate District; and Dale Murney, who is seeking his first term for Michigan's 20th Senate District. All are running on the Democratic ticket but in different districts.

Addressing the group, McCann said more than 1 million Michigan residents received assistance with their health insurance cost before the One Big, Beautiful Bill made significant cuts to social programs like Medicaid and SNAP. Beginning this fall, it is estimated that almost 200,000 will have lost that assistance.

In 2010, McCann voted for expanding health insurance that covered hundreds of thousands of Michiganders while sitting on the state house Appropriations Committee.

"Bill Huizenga is a rubber stamp for Donald Trump," said McCann, who is a five-term Kalamazoo City Commissioner and who spent eight years in the Michigan House before being elected to the 19th District Senate seat in 2018.

"What did he say before he was elected?" McCann asked the audience. "He said he would lower your cost on day one (of his 2nd term). But all these costs are raising. Bill Huizenga hasn't held a town hall since 2018. You need a representative who shows up and listens to you. And he's not voting for you."

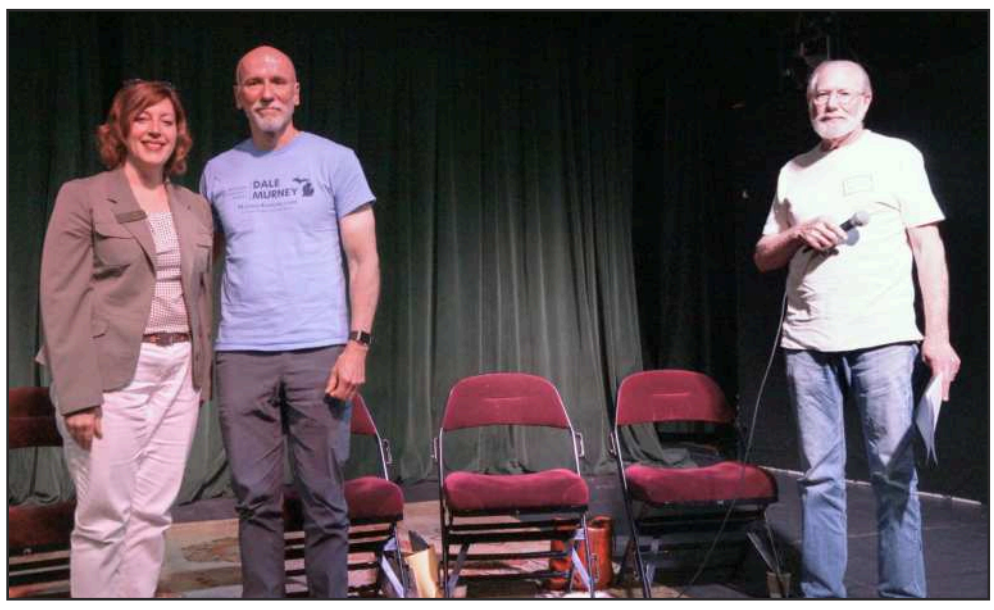
This was the second candidate forum Indivisible Paw Paw has hosted, where organization members ask questions to each candidate. Due to another commitment, McCann was unable to join Rogers and Murney for this part of the event. Questions were developed around topics of concern by many Southwest Michigan constituents.

Project Lighthouse, a bill recently introduced in the House by state 39th District Rep. Pauline Wendzel, aims to repeal the green initiatives passed in the 2024-2024 Michigan legislative session. According the Project Lighthouse web site https://www.lighthouse-mi.com/ the initiative would "replace costly renewable energy mandates with a reliability-first approach."

Asked to respond to Project Lighthouse, Rep. Rogers said she voted in favor of the clean energy package, which mandates that Michigan utilities transition to 100 percent clean energy by 2040 and 60 percent renewable energy by 2035. Recently, the state Republican-led House voted along party lines to roll back that 2023 clean energy package of laws.

"There's nothing clean about coal," said Rogers, who is in her 3rd term in the Michigan House. "I'm in favor of reducing greenhouse gases."

Murney, who is retired from a career in criminal justice system, added alternative energy such as solar has multiple benefits that allow the farmer



to continue to use the agricultural land, while the large solar operations can still generate energy.

"I'm all for win-win situations," Murney said.

Recently, a trio of Michigan Senate bills was introduced to put a statewide moratorium on all data center projects. Senate Bills 1018, 1019 and 1020 would create a law that states that all data center projects would be halted to allow citizens, lawmakers and business leaders to gather information on the impact these large developments could have on Michigan communities, like potential energy rate hikes, environmental consequences and other long-term effects.

When asked if they support this moratorium both Murney and Rogers agreed that guardrails need to be in place on the development of data centers. Rogers said Michigan is envied by other states because of the state's abundant water resource, which data centers need massive amounts of in order to cool and prevent servers from overheating.

Murney said data centers also generate a constant noise that can have an effect on those living nearby, which is the impetus of a lawsuit filed recently against a Dowagiac-based hyperscale data center in Cass County.

The push nationally to build more data centers is based on the need to maintain the U.S.'s lead against China in artificial intelligence and national security. Murney believes this idea is false premise citing that China has about 400 operational commercial data centers, ranking as the fourth largest country in the world for data center infrastructure behind the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

Currently, the United States has more than 4,000 operational data centers, making it the world's largest data center market.

"Data centers just want your data and to sell you crap," Murney exclaimed.

Both candidates believe that AI could have an effect on the labor market through the loss of jobs. Though as a practicing physical therapist, Rogers is excited by the enhancements that AI presents to the medical field. "But guardrails need to be developed," she added.

Michigan is facing a critical housing shortage of as many as 195,000 units. This particularly effects low-income families. Federal housing affordability guidelines define affordable housing as total housing cost (rent/mortgage plus utilities) not to exceed 30 percent of a household's gross income.

When asked what legislative action they could take to lessen the housing burden in Southwest Michigan, Murney said he was concerned by the fact that income levels are not affording young adults to buy a home.

"The average age for a first-time home buyer is 40 years old compared to 10 years ago when that average was 30 years old," he said. "For many residents in the 20th District their income does match the cost of housing."

As the former chair of the Kalamazoo County Commission, Rogers voted to put the "Homes for All" initiative before voters. With voter approval, Kalamazoo was the first county in Michigan to launch this program, which has already raised more than $25 million for affordable housing and essential repairs throughout the county.

"Also, the permitting process for builders takes longer, where it use to take 4-8 weeks to go through the building permit process, it now takes 4-8 months," said Rogers, adding she is not in favor of removing the local community's control over planning and zoning.

The "MiCare Act:" is a bill that would create a universal, publicly financed, and publicly administered health care system for all Michigan. It currently is pending in the House Government Operations Committee.

In response to the MiCare proposal, Murney said he is in favor of a universal healthcare system and feels with a single-payer system, healthcare costs would be reduced.

"A single-payer system ultimately would be better," Murney said.

Rogers who was instrumental with the rebuild of U.S. 131 Business Loop to downtown Kalamazoo, redirecting heavy truck traffic out of the city's Northside neighborhoods where there was a high rate of childhood asthma cases.

Rogers is concerned with federal Medicaid cuts that will force states to cover the financial loss.

"I'm afraid that those who have HIV or cancer may be at risk with the Medicaid loss. All of these federal program cuts are being pushed down to the state level and we don't have enough of a rainy-day fund to make up the difference.

"Medical debt is the top cause of bankruptcy is this country," Rogers said. "Hospitals turn over that debt to collection agencies that makes the debt worse. But I'm not sure how to address this this at the state level. We absolutely need reform."

The final question delt with education and the decline in the state's student test scores since the pandemic.

Both candidates agreed that change is needed but the system can't be reversed overnight. Murney advocates for Pre-K to include 3-year-olds. Rogers said recent bills passed at the state level that bans cellphones in the classroom and the free breakfast and lunch program may help improve test scores.

The statewide Primary will be Tuesday, Aug. 4 with the General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 3. For more information about registering to vote, where to vote, or general questions, visit https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/.

County's Domestic Violence Coalition reports 2025 year stats

By Paul Garrod

PAW PAW - Melanie Hooker, Domestic Violence Coalition Executive Director, recently released the 2025 statistics for the agency for Van Buren County.

Hooker said, "We provided free domestic violence and sexual assault services to 439 new clients with 1,276 contacts with our staff of three staff."

The agency presented to 28 different agencies or organizations about what the agency does.

"We assisted with 277 personal protection orders and helped 11 teens experiencing family violence in the home," said Hooker. "We had 6,510 donated hours by volunteers on the crisis line and 3,906 donated hours for the emergency response team," said Hooker.

She reported the agency went on 63 emergency response calls either to the home of a domestic violence victim with law enforcement or to the hospital for domestic violence or a sexual assault exam.

"We also provide offender treatment with 17 men completing domestic violence offender classes, 10 completing anger management, and 73 completing MRT (Moral Reconation Therapy) a cognitive behavioral therapy program that focuses on substance use disorder," said Hooker.

The Domestic Violence Coalition is located at 106 S. Niles St., behind the Van Buren County Administration building. Offender Programs are at 303 E. Paw Paw St., Paw Paw.

Individuals needing assistance may call the agency 24/7, 365 days a year at (269) 655-9008.

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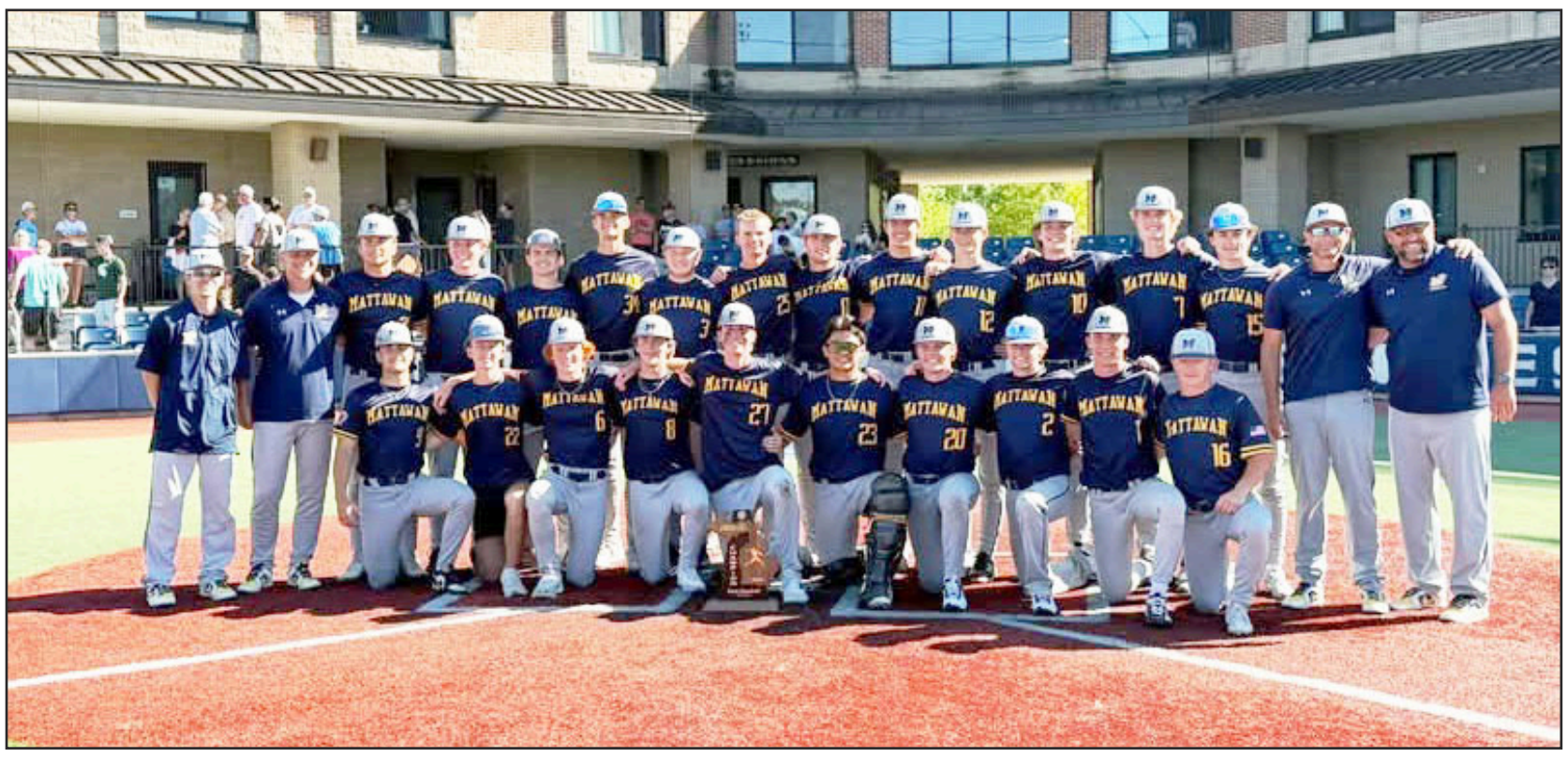
Mattawan baseball in state semifinals



Mattawan's baseball team is in the state semifinals this weekend.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN— Mattawan's baseball team will be playing this weekend at Michigan State University's McLane Stadium after winning three games last week.

The Wildcats are 32-9-2 overall. They beat Lowell 2-1 in eight innings on June 3 in a regional semifinal game. Then they played Traverse City Central in the regional finals and won 8-1. This put them in the quarterfinal game later that day against Byron Center and Mattawan won 3-1.

On Wednesday in the Regional semi-final Mattawan defeated Lowell 2-1 behind a strong pitching performance by Kaden Jominy, throwing six innings of no-hit baseball with seven strikeouts and no walks.

Liam Walsh, Jack Reiter and Maxx Vanantwerp had two hits apiece. A big hit in the eighth inning by Jack Reiter scored two runs to get the win.

"It was an unbelievable pitching performance by Kaden. To throw six innings of no hit baseball is hard in any game, but in the post-season it is even more special," Mattawan coach Brett Vaughn said. "Jack has been struggling a little this postseason, but was able to get a huge hit when it counted the most, with the bases loaded to get the walk-off win.

"On Saturday in the Regional finals we were able to jump out to an early 6-0 lead through the first three innings, which allowed the guys to settle in and beat a solid TCC team 8-1."

Pat Dougherty, Liam Walsh, and John Pelak added two hits apiece to catapult us to the big win. Jominy once again threw a solid five innings, allowing five hits and striking out five.

Nate Fowler came in and closed the door throwing two innings, allowing no hits and striking out one.

"Kaden had another great outing, and it was nice to see Nate come in and finish them off," Vaughn said.

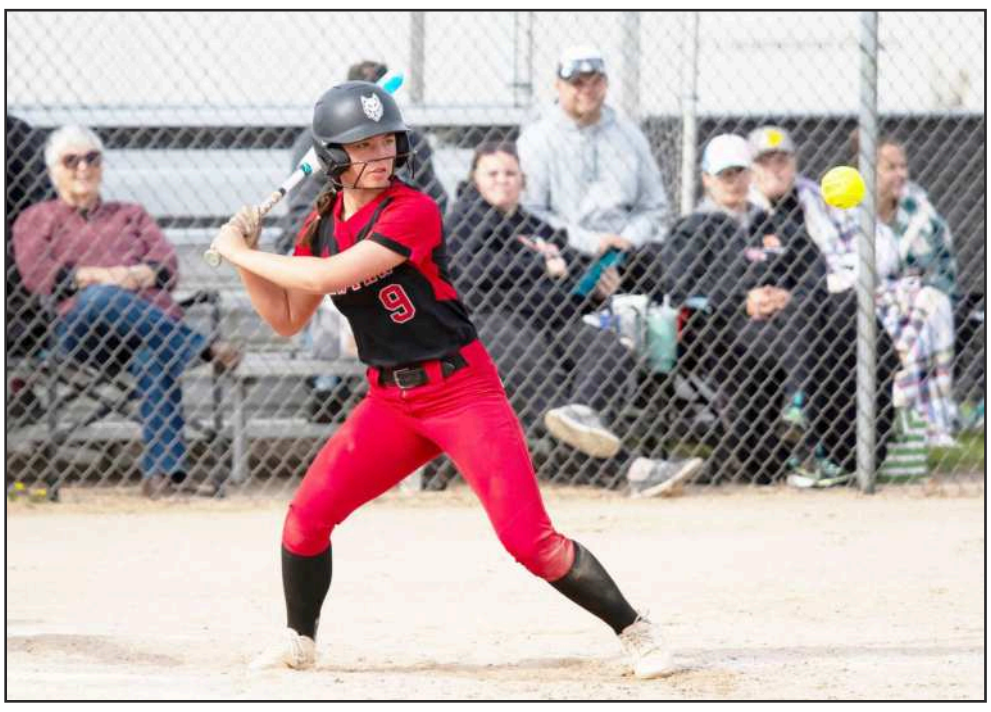
"We did a great job putting the ball in play and making them make plays. We only had two strikeouts in the game, which usually leads to more succesks from our team."

In the state quarterfinal against Byron Center, "We got out to a quick start again scoring two runs in the bottom of the first inning," Vaughn said. "Maxx Vanantwerp threw the first 3.1 innings allowing just 1 run and 4 hits. Liam Walsh came in and threw the rest of the game allowing no hits and no runs. We only had five hits on offense, but again put the ball in play only striking out three times. Pat Dougherty had two hits in the game to lead the Wildcat offense.

"Maxx didn't have his best stuff today, but he was gritty and got through it. Liam came in and was really good. The speed difference and the pace of play kept Byron Center off balance."

Mattawan on Friday at 2:30 p.m. will play Detroit Catholic Central (27-12) in a state semifinal game at MSU. The winner plays at 5 p.m. on Saturday for the state title against Rochester Adams for Brownstown Woodhaven.

Paw Paw's softball season ends



Elizabeth Vanderburg had a hit for Paw Paw

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's softball season ended on Saturday with a 5-1 loss to the Lakeshore Lancers in the regional semifinals.

Paw Paw had advanced to the state title game a year ago but this time the season ended in the regionals. Paw Paw's final record was 33-5. The Wolves were hopeful of making a state title bid but it did not work out this time.

Paw Paw out hit Lakeshore 4-2 but still lost the game.

Raegan Zache, Stella Shaefer, Elizabeth Vanderburg and Kourtney Nichols had one hit apiece.

Paw Paw took a 1-0 lead in the bottom the first when Vanderburg singled home a run. Lakeshore made the score 3-1 the top of the fourth. An error scored two runs for Lakeshore.

Shauna Roberts and Payton Strefling each had a hit for Lakeshore.

Lauren Mackellar took the pitching loss for Paw Paw.

Gobles girls lose in regional finals

Daisy Jackson had a strong regional tournament for Gobles

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles girls softball team lost 6-5 to Mendon in the regional finals on Saturday to end the season with a 31-7 record under coach Megan Ivester.

In the first game of regionals, Gobles beat Colon 14-1.

Daisy Jackson drove in four runs on two hits to lead the winners. Kelsee Sherrod was the winning pitcher, allowing four hits and one run over three innings, striking out three and walking one. Kylee Killeen pitched three innings.

Alan Gonzalez and Riley Johnson also had two hits for Gobles. Killeen stole three bases.

Against Mendon, Killeen had three hits. Sherrod was the starting pitcher, allowing seven hits and six runs, four earned, over seven innings, striking out three and walking five.

Sherrod and Riley Johnson had two RBIs apiece. Gobles' defense turned in a double play.

Mendon is the defending state champions.

"It was a tough one," Ivester said. "I was proud of the grit, heart and fight our girls showed from the first pitch to the last out. We proved we can compete with anyone and we'll use this experience to keep growing. Finishing our season 31-7 and all the accomplishments we had this season are nothing to hang our heads about. The future is bright for Gobles softball.

"Each player contributed to the team's success. We put together a tough schedule to compete at the end and unfortunately the timing just didn't work out. The seniors leave a huge legacy for our program and have built a winning culture that will continue for years."

Paw Paw athletes score at state meet

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw girls scored 11 points to tie for 23rd place and the boys had four points to tie for 53rd at the recent Division 2 state finals in Hamilton.

For the girls, Taylor Thorpe was fourth for Paw Paw in the 100 meters with a time of 12.36 seconds.

She was second in the 200 meters with a time of 24.42 seconds which was a personal best.

For the boys, JaJ Varney was fifth in the pole vault with a personal best performance of 14 feet, 1 inch.

Those two athletes earned all-state medals for finishing in the top eight.

Thorpe never finished lower than third in a meet all season in the 200. She had 10 first places all season.

Lawton girls soccer team wins awards

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Lawton's girls soccer team finished the season with a record 8-6-1.

Junior Center Midfielder Lilleonah Mandujano was 1st Team All Conference; All District; All Region and for the the season had 20 goals and 14 assists.

Senior defender Taylor Whipple was 1st Team All Conference, All District and for the season had 2 goals and 3 assists.

Junior center Midfielder Jaelyn Auton was All Conference Honorable Mention and All District and for the season had 9 goals and 8 assists.

Sophomore Keeper Lila Karsen was All Conference Honorable Mention and All District.

Junior Winger Allyson French was All District and for the season had 4 goals and 8 assists.

Sophomore Striker Addy Miller was All District and for the season had 6 goals and 2 assists

Freshman forward Joanna Casarrubias was All District and had 3 goals and 3 assists

Freshman forward Maddie Vette will be a player to keep an eye on over the years and had seven goals and three assists

South Haven girls earn honors

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Several players from South Haven's softball team earned honors this season.

All conference for the Lakeshore division in the SAC from South haven:

Senior addison Dekoning, Junior Sofia Grieves, Junior Reagan Hahn, Soph Kiersten Chalupa, Soph Mady Duda

All district:

Senior Pitcher Addison deKoning Junior pitcher Sofia Grieves, Sophomore Kiersten Chalupa at first base.

Sophomore utility Mady Duda

Academic all state seniors: Erin Bos and Addison DeKoning

South Haven was academic all state team with a team GPA of 3.79.

South Haven had a final record of 25-12.

The Rams lost to Lakeshore 9-0 to end its season.

Lincoln Elementary celebrates end of school year with block party

By James Windell

The playground at Lincoln Elementary School was packed with children in yellow Rock the Block Party T-shirts eating their lunches off of green frisbees.

After eating hotdogs and chips, each classroom lined up and followed their teacher to Lincoln's front lawn where stations were set up by teachers in yellow t-shirts. Each station on the front lawn and along a blocked-off Elkenburg Street featured a different activity for kids to enjoy. All the while music was playing in the background and parent volunteers helped to herd excited kids along a route from station to station.

Carrie Timmer, a Lincoln Elementary School Success Coach, came up with the idea of a block party for the end of school.

"Normally every year they would do a field day at the elementary schools, where the kids go outside and there like 15 activities for them," says Timmer, in between assignments on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, on the playground. "That was a lot to manage for Mrs. Guthrie, our gym teacher, who was doing it at both this school and Maple Grove. So, she decided to split it and this year Maple Grove is getting a field day. But, here there wasn't anything for an end-of-year celebration. I said, 'Come on, we can have fun.' So, I thought, why not a good old-fashioned block party."

That's what they had on this day at Lincoln Elementary. The Rock the Block Party. At each of a dozen stations, kids were invited to participate in a game or activity. The very first one was a snow cone station.

Next was a Dip, Sip, Drop station. "We're gonna play a game with this," a teacher explained when a new group of students sat in a circle. "It's called Dip, Sip, Drop, and you're gonna have water in this cup. I'm going to show you how to play it."

The idea of the Dip, Sip, Drop game was simple. Students sat in a circle on the grass and one child could drip water from a sponge on each person's head. When the child with the sponge really unloaded on a student's head, that child would get up and try to catch the one with the sponge as they raced around the circle of students.

In other stations kids could paint sticks or move beach balls with squirt guns. And out on Elkenburg Street children could sit on the street and draw pictures with colored chalk on the pavement.

According to Timmer, the yellow t-shirts kids wore were donated by the combined efforts of several sponsors. "Every student received a T-shirt today through sponsorship," said Timmer. "And then just like when you go to camp, we're letting all the kids sign each other's T-shirts today."

The food for the day was provided from the school district budget. "Our current student council members were asked what their favorite summertime picnic food items were and our food service department was happy to accommodate their requests," explained Timmer. "The kids requested hotdogs with all the condiments and watermelon."

The meals were served on frisbees and 1200 frisbees were donated by the Apple Insurance Agency. "We chose to serve lunch on the frisbees for an extra special touch for the Rock the Block party," Timmer said.

Timmer said that she and Kate Hybels, also a Success Coach at Lincoln Elementary, thought the Rock the Block Party was a huge success. They confirmed this by asking students what they liked best about the party. "The most common answer was everything," Timmer said.

Two first graders, Adeline and Maria, were engrossed in sitting on Elkenburg Street drawing with colored chalk on the pavement.

Asked what she liked best about the block party, Maria didn't have to think about it. "I liked eating snow cones," she replied.

But then she thought about it for another few seconds and added "And the face painting."

Adeline agreed with her. "Yeah, the face painting."

Will there be another Rock the Block Party at the end of school next year?

"If there is a need for another end of year celebration next year," Timmer said, "I'd love to do it again!"

Several hundred kids probably would agree with her.

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1994 AYSO WORLD CUP GOLD MEDAL WINNERS, BEATING BROOKLYN, NY IN OVERTIME

The 1994 World Cup was held in the United States. During this period, the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) also held a youth World Cup in several locations in the United States. Kalamazoo, Michigan was one of the locations hosting the youth World Cup.

The local AYSO Region 250 had a team selected to participate in the tournament during the summer of 1994. Region 250 was made up of the communities of Decatur, Gobles, Lawton, Mattawan, and Paw Paw. The team went through their suffering, the only loss of the tournament to the team from Ada, Michigan.

Moving on to the elimination round, the Region 250 team would continue winning to the final match to face a team from Brooklyn, NY. A great game between the two regions ended in overtime with a shot from outside the penalty box giving Region 250 the win minutes before time would run out for the overtime. The next step would have been a shootout between the two teams.

Region 250 had Mattawan leaving the next season to move into their own region. Region 250 folded a few years ago due to a lack of support.

SHAES receives donation in support of firefighter wellness

South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES) accepted a give-back donation of $10,000 from Tris4health for its support of the USAT Multisport National Championships Festival which was held at Lake Arvesta in May.

Participating were 900 athletes from 47 States, plus the District of Columbia, and four countries: the USA, Canada, Mexico and Macedonia. SHAES provided safety support over the four-day event.

"This generous donation helps us invest in our people, our preparedness, and our community by supporting firefighter wellness, training, equipment, and other initiatives that strengthen our ability to serve," said Chief Hinz.

Pictured: Presenting the donation to members of the SHAES Board was John Mosey of Tris4health

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Date 06/01/2026
Attorney Name:
Andrew W. Barnes #P70571
317 Center Street
South Haven, MI 49090
269-287-2010
Personal Representative:
Charles N. Zimmerman
10321 M-140 Hwy.
Shouth Haven, MI 49090
269-252-2287

State of Michigan
Probate Court Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors
Decedent's Estate
Case NO. and Judge
2026-1080-DE
Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of Jeffrey James Ritsema
Date of Birth: 09/17/1972
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Jeffrey James Ritsema, died 03/23/2026.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Bridget Ritsema, Personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Date 05/26/2026
Attorney Name:
Benjamin J. Herbert #P70082
5830 Venture Park Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-459-1432
Personal Representative:
Bridget Ritsema
150 Pinetree Lane
Lawton, MI 49065
269-655-7230

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AS TO ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, OR ASSIGNEES OF FRED MANDEL AKA FREDERIC MANDEL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that there is presently pending in the Van Buren County Circuit Court, State of Michigan, an action between Plaintiff Palmer Dr., LLC, and Defendants Any and All Unknown heirs, devisees and assignees of Fred Mandel aka Frederic Mandel; Case No. 25-075228-CH, involving the property identified as: Lots 69, 70, and 71. Palmer Beach, Paw Paw Township, Parcel No. 80-14-430-069-00. On May 1, 2026, a default affidavit and entry was filed by the Court. You may contact Steven A. Jacobs, Schenk & Bruetsch, PLC, 211 W Fort St., Ste 1410, Detroit, MI 48226 with any questions relating to this matter.
(06-11)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
36TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
VAN BUREN COUNTY
ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATE SERVICE
CASE NO. AND JUDGE
26 075634 CK
HON. SUSAN METZGER
Plaintiff's:
CITIZENS UNITED RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE, d/b/a CURE AUTO INSURANCE
Plaintiff's Attorney:
JONATHAN A. VANGEMERT (P71070)
612 W. University Drive, Suite 200
Rochester, MI 48307
Phone: (248) 601-4499
V.
Defendant's:
DYLAN MADISON
602 W. Van Buren St, Apt 5, Gobles, MI 49055

THE COURT FINDS:
Service of process upon the defendant, Dylan Madison cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR 2.105 and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.
IT IS ORDERED:
2. Service of the summons and complaint other: Jury Demand and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).
a. First-class mail to 602 W Van Buren St, Apt 5, Gobles, MI 49055
b. Tacking or firmly affixing to the door at 602 W Van Buren St, Apt 5, Gobles, MI 49055
.d. Other. Publication pursuant to MCR 2.106 (D) in Paw Paw Courier Leader Courier Leader. For each method used, proof of service must be filed promptly with the court.
Judge Signature:
Susan Metzger

Case No. 25-075227-CH CIRCUIT COURT SALE In pursuance and by virtue of a Judgment of the Circuit Court for the County of VanBuren, State of Michigan, made and entered on the 27th day of April, A.D., 2026 in a certain cause therein pending, wherein 1ST SOURCE BANK was the Plaintiff and J & P INVESTMENTS, LLC, and JOSEPH MAGERS, were the Defendants. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I shall sell at public auction to the highest bidder, at public venue, at the VanBuren County Courthouse (that being the place of holding the Circuit Court for said County), on the 6th day of August, A.D., 2026 at 1:00 p.m. o'clock in the afternoon, Eastern Standard Time, the following described property, viz: All certain piece or parcel of land situated in Lawton, County of Van Buren and State of Michigan, described as follows: Lot 5, Block 2 Dodge's Addition to the Village of Lawton, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber K of Deeds, Page 177, Van Buren County Records, except the South 22 feet wide thereof and except the Easterly 24.65 feet of the North 44 feet thereof. Parcel Identification Number: 80-45-250-019-00 Commonly known as 114 N. Main Street, Lawton, MI 49065 This property may be redeemed during the six (6) months following the sale. Dated: Daniel E. Abbott, VanBuren County Sheriff By: Brian S. Salyer, Deputy Sheriff Katherine E. Iskin (P83598) Sean M. Towner (P82245) Attorneys for Plaintiff MAY OBERFELL LORBER, LLP 4100 Edison Lakes Parkway, Suite 100 Mishawaka, IN 46545 Telephone: (574) 243-4100 kiskin@maylorber.com stowner@maylorber.com
(06-11)(07-23)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on July 9, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): James A. Lothamer, Jr., a single person
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC
Date of Mortgage: July 24, 2024
Date of Mortgage Recording: August 2, 2024
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $176,761.30
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 25 in Supervisor's Plat of Hiways Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven, according to the Plat thereof recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 15, Van Buren County Records.
Common street address (if any): 746 Hiways Ave, South Haven, MI 49090-1928
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: June 11, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1595362
(06-11)(07-02)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: DEREK FANKHAUSER; ATTY: SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, P.C. - SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, PC; 1ST PUB: 6/4/2026; ATTY FILE #: 26-001815-1; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on July 02, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Derek Fankhauser and Mary Fankhauser, a husband and wife Original Mortgagee: The Huntington National Bank Date of mortgage: October 24, 2023 Recorded on October 25, 2023, Liber 1758, on Page 577, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-One and 46/100 Dollars ($220,981.46) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: That part of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 20, Town 4 South, Range 13 West, described as: Beginning at the North 1/4 corner of said Section; thence South 00 degrees 18 minutes 03 seconds East on the 1/4 Section line, 217.69 feet; thence North 89 degrees 23 minutes 33 seconds West parallel with the North Section line 623.98 feet; thence North 00 degrees 11 minutes 20 seconds East parallel with the North-South 1/8 line of the Northwest 1/4 218.45 feet to the North Section line; thence South 89 degrees 23 minutes 33 seconds East on the North Section line 623.57 feet to the Place of Beginning. EXCEPT: Commencing at the North 1/4 corner of Section 20, Town 4 South, Range 13 West, Porter Township, Van Buren County, Michigan; thence North 89 degrees 23 minutes 33 seconds West, 522.27 feet on the North line of said Section 20 to the Place of Beginning; thence continuing North 89 degrees 23 minutes 33 seconds West, 101.00 feet on the North line of said Section 20; thence South 00 degrees 11 minutes 20 seconds East, 657.67 feet; thence South 89 degrees 23 minutes 33 seconds East, 101.00 feet parallel with the North line of said Section 20; thence North 00 degrees 11 minutes 20 seconds West, 657.67 feet to the Place of Beginning. Commonly known as 84056 M 40, Lawton, MI 49065 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1595324
(06-04)(06-25)

NEW CCS PUB -> COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: CARRINGTON MORTGAGE VS JOSHUA L. NORTHRUP; ATTY: RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. - RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.; 1ST PUB: 6/4/2026; ATTY FILE #: 25MI00548-2; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
CASE NO. 25-075091-CH CIRCUIT COURT SALE ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. In pursuance and by virtue of a Judgment of the Circuit Court for the County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, made and entered 24th day of April, A.D., 2026 in a certain cause therein pending, wherein Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC was the Plaintiff and Joshua L. Northrup and the United States of America were the Defendants. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I shall sell at public auction to the highest bidder, at public venue, at the Van Buren County Courthouse (that being the place of holding the Circuit Court for said County), on the 23rd day of July, 2026 at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, Eastern Standard Time, the following described property, viz: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Joshua L. Northrup, A Single Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated March 13, 2018, and recorded on March 15, 2018, in Liber 1665, Page 7, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated February 24, 2023 and recorded February 27, 2023, in Liber 1749, Page 239, Van Buren County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-One and 81/100 Dollars ($220,831.81) including interest at the rate of 5.25000% per annum. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Said premises are situated in the Township of BLOOMINGDALE, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: Beginning at a point found by commencing at the South 1/4 post of Section 2, Town 1 South, Range 14 West, Bloomingdale Township, Van Buren County, Michigan; thence West on the South line of the Section 1323.07 feet to the North-South 1/8 line of the Southwest 1/4; thence North 01 degrees 17 minutes 05 seconds West on said line 1153.83 feet to the place of beginning of this description; thence North 01 degrees 17 minutes 05 seconds West on said 1/8 line 164.00 feet to the East-West 1/8 line of said Southwest 1/4; thence South 89 degrees 51 minutes 03 seconds West on said 1/8 line 667.6 feet; thence South 01 degrees 44 minutes 24 seconds East parallel with the West line of the Section 164.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 51 minutes 14 seconds East 666.36 feet to the point of this description. Commonly known as: 03090 37 1/2 ST, GOBLES, MI 49055 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: June 4, 2026 Brian S. Salyer, Deputy Sheriff Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00548-2
(06-04)(07-09)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Gregory J. Giniel II; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 5/28/2026; Atty File #: 26-004985; Insurer: (unknown)
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on JULY 2, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Gregory J. Giniel II, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for OCMBC, Inc., its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated October 17, 2022 and recorded November 1, 2022 in Liber 4812, Page 644 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Brighthouse Life Insurance Company, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Million Two Hundred Sixty-One Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Three and 1/100 Dollars ($1,261,583.01).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JULY 2, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Casco, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Lot(s) 13, 14, 15 and 16, Block 5, Plat of Beverly Beach, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 5 of Plats, Page 1.
7258 Beverly Drive, South Haven, Michigan 49090
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Dated: May 28, 2026
File No. 26-004985
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(05-28)(06-18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: ERIN MAPES; Atty: ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE - RAS CRANE & PARTNERS (CC ON FILE); 1st Pub: 5/28/2026; Atty File #: 26-408893; Insurer: (unknown)
ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC, MAY BE DEEMED A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, GA 30004 ph:470-321-7112 Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in VAN BUREN County, starting promptly at 1:00P.M on June 25, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): ERIN MAPES. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by ERIN MAPES to CHEMICAL BANK, original Mortgagee, for a mortgage dated June 28, 2007, and recorded on July 06, 2007, in Liber 1486 Page 193 in the Van Buren County Register of Deeds. Said mortgage was assigned through mesne assignments to U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST, as documented by an assignment dated February 18, 2026, and recorded on April 6, 2026, in Liber 1790 Page 928 in the VAN BUREN County Register of Deeds, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $59,960.17. Under the power of sale contained in said Mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the place of holding the Circuit Court within VAN BUREN County, Michigan on June 25, 2026 at 1:00 P.M. Said premises are located in the city of PAW PAW in VAN BUREN County, Michigan and are described as: THE NORTH HALF OF LOT 11, BLOCK 26, ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE VILLAGE OF PAW PAW, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR VAN BUREN COUNTY. Property Address: 320 E BERRIEN STREET, PAW PAW, MI 49079 Tax ID No. 80-47-126-011-00 The redemption period shall be Six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If this property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the Mortgage sale or to the Mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCAF ACQUISITION TRUST, Mortgagee/Assignee May 28, 2026 ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Attorney for Mortgagee/Assignee 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450 Alpharetta, GA 30004 Telephone: 470-321-7112 Facsimile: 404-393-1425 Service Email: MIFCLTeam@raslg.com
(05-28)(06-18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Chad Bedwell; Atty: Potestivo & Associates - Potestivo & Associates; 1st Pub: 5/28/2026; Atty File #: 322076; Insurer: FNMA
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, on June 25, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Chad Bedwell, Surviving Spouse Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Green Lending, its successors and assigns Foreclosing Assignee: PHH Asset Services, LLC Date of Mortgage: July 31, 2025 Date of Mortgage Recording: August 6, 2025 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: $155,709.79 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the City of Hartford, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: LOT 16 OF PARASCANDOLO ADDITION NO. 1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN LIBER 5 OF PLATS, ON PAGE 16, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS. Commonly Known as: 117 Paras Hill Dr., Hartford, MI 49057 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Purchaser: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: 05/28/2026 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251 Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 322076
(05-28)(06-18)

PUBLIC NOTICE
PLANNING COMMISION SPECIAL MEETING

Chair Clint Fournier has called a SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION to be held Thursday, June 25, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

This meeting is open to the public and will be held at the following location:

VILLAGE HALL
24221 FRONT AVENUE
MATTAWAN, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128

Jolie Storm-Artis,Village Clerk
May 27, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2026-27 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 25, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at Wood School District No. 8, 29842 66th Street, Bangor, MI, the Wood School Board of Education will hold a public hearing to consider the district's proposed 2026-27 budget. The Board may not adopt its proposed 2026-27 budget until after the public hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Devin Sorenson, Secretary

Bloomingdale Public Schools NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2026-2027 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 22, 2026, at 5:30p.m., in the high school auditorium, the Board of Education of Bloomingdale Public Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2026-2027 budget.
The Board may not adopt its proposed 2026-2027 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2026-2027 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 629 E Kalamazoo St, Bloomingdale, Michigan.
The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.
This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Jodi Sower, Secretary

VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Mattawan Planning Commission will consider a **Special Land Use Request** received from Tim Spiech, to allow for a **Nail Salon Home Based Business at 58633 Ryan Rd., Mattawan property ID # 80-46-700-100-10** in the Village of Mattawan.

1169-C26B1 13-3-13 1495-793 1497-62 1505-131 1561-519 1586-987 1639-295 1719-52 *** COM AT S 1/4 PT OF SEC, TH NLY ALG N&S 1/4 L 1292.13', TH S 73 DEG 57'28"W 468.76' TO ELY L OF RYAN RD, TH N 37 DEG 19'55"W ALG SD ELY L 393.3', TH CON ALG SD ELY L ALGA 414.97' RADIUS CURVE TO THE LEFT 108.64', SD CURVE HAVING A CHORD BEARING N 44 DEG 48'20"W 108.33', TH N 52 DEG 16'15"W ALG SD ELY L 526.71', TH CON AGL SD ELY L ALG A 319.92' RADIUS CURVE TO THE RIGHT 90.04', SD CURV HAVING A CHORD BEARING N 44 DEG 12'26"W 89.75', TH N 34 DEG 11'50"W ALG SD ELY L 23.85' TO BEG TH CON N 34 DEG 11'50"W ALG SD ELY L 213.45', TH N 76 DEG 15'20" E 285.38', TH N 0 DEG 12'35"E 421.15', TH S 88 DEG 04'E PAR WITH E&W 1/4 L 889.5', TH S 0 DEG 12'35" 456.38', TH S 74 DEG 08' 52"W 177.35', TH N 0 DEG 12'35"E 420.58', TH N 88 DEG 04'W PAR WITH SD E&W 1/4 L 669', TH S 0 DEG 12'35"W 523.30', TH S 76 DEG 15'20"W 212.59' TO BEG.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the request will be considered by the Planning Commission at their meeting to be held on **June 25, 2026 @ 7:00 PM** for the purpose of receiving public comment regarding the proposed special land use. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

This home based business will nail and tooth gem services in the home. We encourage the public to attend to express their opinions and learn about this project.

The meeting will be held in the Village Office meeting room at the address below. Please send all written comments to:

Village of Mattawan
24221 Front Avenue, Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128 • offices@mattawanmi.com

Jolie Storm-Artis, Village Clerk
May 28, 2026

CLASSIFIEDS

• HELP WANTED •

LIVE-IN KENNEL HELP WANTED and lawn work, free rent, call for information, physically fit male, 269-400-0516

• WANTED •

WE BUY OLD BASEBALL CARDS, OTHER SPORTS MEMORABILIA AND OLD VINTAGE COINS. CAN BE REACHED AT 517-416-1629. WE PAY CASH.

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER. Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

TIM'S STUMP GRINDING SERVICE- I believe in respectable service. 269-299-5052, 269-624-6884.

HAULING, CLEANING RECYCLING. Moving service. Right Quick Hauling. Dan Wydick, Dustin Wydick, Daniel Wydick, 423-8545. Serving since 1994.

FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC. Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

CALL A PRO HANDYMAN SERVING LAWRENCE AND SURROUNDING AREAS 269-903-6397.

PERRY'S PERFECT PITCH PIANO TUNING Homes-Churches-Schools, Call 269-999-4440.

• FOR SALE •

HOME FOR SALE 1984 VICTORIAN MANUFACTURED HOME.
2 Bd, 2bth, 2 outdoor porches, 10'x12' 3 season room.
All appliances and some furniture included.
New flooring throughout, new window coverings, new interior paint throughout, 2 new toilets, generally good condition.
Royal Estates Mobile Home Park
6253 Overdale Manor Rd., Kalamazoo, MI
Asking price- $55,000
Please call: 925-775-8315

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• AUCTION •

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Insurance Advisor
(269) 998-6977

PAW PAW PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2026-2027 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 22, 2026, at 6:30 pm at the Paw Paw Public Schools Administration Building, 119 Johnson Road, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079, the Board of Education of Paw Paw Public Schools will have a Special Board of Education Meeting where they will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2026-2027 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2026-2027 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2026-2027 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, will be available for public inspection during normal business hours after June 15th, 2026, in the Administration Building at 119 Johnson Road, Paw Paw, Michigan, 49079.

The 2026 property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

The proposed 2026-2027 budget will be an action item during the Special Board of Education Meeting scheduled for Monday, June 22, 2026, at 6:30 pm at the Paw Paw Public Schools Administration Building.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Paw Paw Public Schools
119 Johnson Road, Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 415-5200

VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN
Zoning Board of Appeals
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Mattawan Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing to consider a Variance Request received from **Edward Kucinich and Florence Kucinich** for property located at **23968 E. McGillen Avenue, Mattawan property ID # 80-46-700-057-20** requesting a variance from the Village of Mattawan Zoning Ordinance Article 10 Section 10.10 (B) Late Hours of Operation, Article 10 Section 10.20 (P) Restaurants (excluding drive-in restaurants or those with predominately drive-through facilities), and Article 14 Section 14.62 Drive-In and Drive -Through Establishments.

1169-B17 12-3-13 594-548 986-257+258 *** BEG SW COR; TH N00D32'22"E 311.69 FT; S87D54'13"E 330.37 FT; S00D32'22"W 311.24 FT; N87D58'58"W 330.36 FT TO POB. *** SPLIT ON 11/14/2024 FROM 80-46-700-057-01; FOR 2025

The variance, if granted, would allow for 24-hour operations, a restaurant with predominantly drive-through facilities, and double drive-through lane configuration.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing on said request will be held on **June 22, 2026, before the Zoning Board of Appeals at 7:00 PM** in the Village Hall meeting room at which time all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

The meeting will be held in the Village Hall meeting room at the address below. Please send all written comments to:

Village of Mattawan
24221 Front Avenue, Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128 • offices@mattawanmi.com

Jolie Storm-Artis, Village Clerk
May 29, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON INCREASING PROPERTY TAXES

The Almena Township of the Almena Township will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase of 0.01050 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied on property in year 2026.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at (time am/pm) at the Almena Township Hall, 27625 CR 375 Paw Paw.

The date and location of the meeting to take action on the proposed additional millage will be announced at this meeting.

If adopted, the proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes 2.69% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a hearing. If the proposed additional millage is not approved, the operating revenue will increase by 1.37% over the preceding year's operating revenue.

The taxing unit publishing this notice, and identified below, has complete authority to establish the number of mills to be levied from within its authorized millage rate.

This notice is published by:

Almena Township
27625 CR 375
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-668-6910

Arlington Township, Van Buren County, Michigan
Notice of Ordinance Establishing Data Center Moratorium and Fireworks Ordinance
Adoption and Synopsis of Ordinances
Public Notice: At a regular meeting held on May 20, 2026, the Arlington Township Board of Trustees adopted the following ordinances:
Ordinance Number 2026 – 1 entitled: Ordinance Establishing Data Center Moratorium
Ordinance Number 2026 – 2 entitled: Fireworks Ordinance

The **Ordinance Establishing Data Center Moratorium** is summarized as follows:
The Township is concerned with the potential impact of Data Centers, including high energy, water use, noise, and inappropriate placement. Due to these concerns, and in order to protect public health, safety, and welfare and ensure proper planning and oversight, the Township finds it necessary to enact a temporary moratorium for a period of two years on the permitting, consideration, approval, location, construction, and/or installation of any Data Center facilities.
Section 1. Title: Arlington Township Ordinance Establishing Data Center Moratorium.
Section 2. Definition: Data Centers are defined as facilities primarily for digital data storage, management, and processing, including related equipment and infrastructure such as servers, cooling systems, power generators, and utility.
Section 3. Moratorium: The Township enacts to temporarily halt the establishment of new Data Centers for up to two years or until appropriate regulations are adopted.
Section 4. Severability: Provisions of this Ordinance can be severable if any part is declared invalid.
Section 5. Repeal: All or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.
Section 6. Effective Date: This Ordinance shall take effect the day after publication.

The **Fireworks Ordinance** is summarized as follows:
The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the display of fireworks in a manner that corresponds to state statute, for the purpose of protecting the safety and welfare of persons in the Township.
Section 1. Title - Arlington Township Fireworks Ordinance
Section 2. Definitions – Meaning to specific words and phrases as used in this Ordinance are defined in this section.
Section 3. General prohibition on ignition, discharge, and use of fireworks; exception.
No person shall ignite, discharge, or use fireworks within the township at any time, except:
A. Specifies days and times a person may ignite, discharge or use consumer fireworks
B. This section shall not apply to low-impact fireworks.
Section 4. Additional prohibitions and regulations.
A person shall not ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks:
AB. On public property or willfully cause fireworks to enter public property without express permission.
C. While under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance. Includes low-impact fireworks.
D. If the person is a minor.
E. In a manner that is intended to harass, scare, or injure livestock. Includes low-impact fireworks.
F. If the fire chief implements a no-burning restriction. Includes low-impact fireworks.
Section 5. Enforcement.
This article may be enforced by the fire chief, sworn law enforcement officers, and their designees.
Section 6. Penalties.
A person who violates this Ordinance is responsible for a municipal civil infraction.
A person found responsible for a violation of this Ordinance shall pay the actual costs of securing, seizing, storing, and disposing of any fireworks and evidence seized.
Section 7. Effective Date.
This Ordinance shall become effective 30 days after the date of this publication.

The full text of these Ordinances can be found on the Arlington Township website *(www.arlingtontownship.com)* and may also be obtained or reviewed by contacting the Township Clerk at 269-427-7300.

TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

To: The Residents and Property Owners of the Township of Pine Grove, Van Buren County, Michigan, and Any Other Interested Persons:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following is a summary of Ordinance No. 06-03-2026, which was adopted by the Pine Grove Township Board of Trustees on June 3, 2026. This Ordinance is effective upon publication.

ORDINANCE NO. 06-03-2026
TEMPORARY DATA CENTER MORATORIUM ORDINANCE

SECTION I. FINDINGS. The Section sets out the findings of fact that establish the need for the Township to institute a moratorium on the processing of any applications for data centers as the Township studies the potential public health, safety, and welfare concerns of data centers on its residents and existing land uses.

SECTION II. MORATORIUM/TERM OF MORATORIUM. The moratorium is for a period of six (6) months from the effective date of this ordinance, or until the effective date of any ordinance regulating data centers, whichever is first.

SECTION III. EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM. The moratorium may be extended by resolution of the Township Board at any time before its expiration.

SECTION IV. SEVERABILITY. If any section of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid, the rest of the Ordinance shall not be affected by such a determination.

SECTION V. REPEAL. This Section provides that any ordinances that are in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed.

SECTION VI. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Section provides that the Ordinance shall take effect 30 days after publication following adoption.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a true copy of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Township of Pine Grove at the address set forth below and that a copy of the Ordinance may be inspected, reviewed or purchased by contacting the undersigned during regular business hours on regular working days.

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP
Michelle Meert, Clerk
26520 County Road 388, Gobles, MI 49055
269-628-4380
www.pinegrovetownshipmi.gov

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